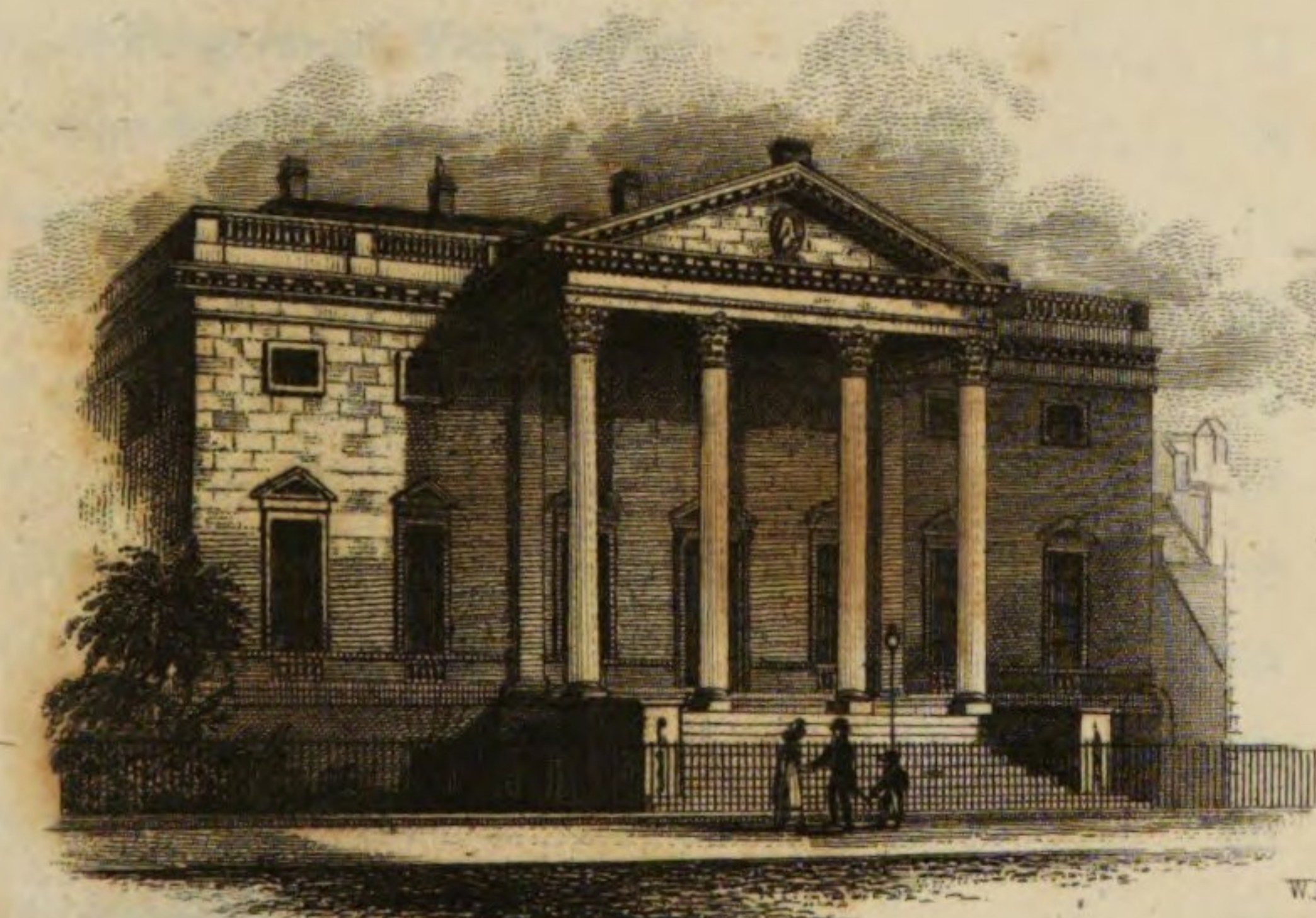


Med. g. & 22

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PROFESSIONAL
ANECDOTES,
 OR
ANA
 OF
MEDICAL LITERATURE
in three Volumes
VOL. III.



W. Read sc.

The College of Physicians Edinburgh.

LONDON:
JOHN KNIGHT & HENRY LACEY,
PATERNOSTER ROW.
1825.

Med. g. 8^w / 3



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Leyde 17th 29.
Sloane Ms. 3321.

H. Boerhaave.

From his recommendatory
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Sir Hans Sloane
18 July 1736.
Sloane Ms. 4038.

H. Boerhaave

From a Letter
20 August 1741.
to M^r. Desmairaux
Sloane Ms. 4285.

A. B. Read

From a note to
M^r. Peter Des Maisieux
23 Nov^r 1740.
Hans Sloane
Sloane Ms. 4288.

From a Letter to
his Son
T E O Browne
Sloane Ms. 4039.

From a Letter in
English to M^r. Pettiver
18 Aug 1710.
L. Heister
N^o. 2.
Sloane Ms. 3222.

MEDICINE
AND
MEDICAL MEN.

SLOANE'S LIBERALITY.

SIR HANS SLOANE was a governor in almost every Hospital about London; to each he gave a hundred pounds, in his life-time; and, at his death, a sum more considerable. He formed the plan of a dispensatory, where the poor might be furnished with proper medicines at prime cost; which, with the assistance of the College of Physicians, was afterwards carried into execution. He gave the company of apothecaries the entire freehold of their Botanical Garden at Chelsea; in the centre of which a marble statue of him is erected, admirably executed, by Rysback, and the likeness striking. He did all he could to forward the colony in Georgia, in 1732; of the Foundling Hospital, in 1739, and formed the plan for bringing up

the children. He was the first in England who introduced, into general practice, the use of bark, not only in fevers, but in a variety of other cases; particularly in nervous disorders, in mortifications, and in violent hæmorrhages. His cabinet of curiosities, which he had taken so much pains to collect, he bequeathed to the public; on condition, that the sum of £20,000 should be paid to his family; which sum, though large, was not the original cost, and scarce more than the intrinsic value of the gold and silver medals, the ores and precious stones, that were found in it. Besides these, there was his library, consisting of more than 50,000 volumes; 347 of which, were illustrated with cuts, finely engraven, and coloured from nature; 3566 manuscripts; and an infinite number of rare and curious books. The parliament accepted his bequest; and that magnificent structure, called Montague-House, in Great Russell-street, Bloomsbury, was purchased for the reception of this collection, as well as for that of the Cottonian-library, and the Harleian manuscripts; and thus, Sir Hans Sloane became the founder of the British Museum, one of the noblest collections in the world. But the wits, who never spare a character, however eminently great and useful, more than once took occasion to ridicule this good man for a taste, the utility of which

they did not comprehend, but which was honoured with the unanimous approbation of the British legislature. Thus Young, in his "Love of Fame:"

But what address can be more sublime
Than Sloane—the foremost *toyman* of his time?
His nice ambition lies in curious fancies,
His daughter's portion a rich *shell* enhances,
And Ashmole's baby-house is, in his view,
Britannia's golden mine—a rich Peru!
How his eyes languish! how his thoughts adore,
That painted coat which Joseph *never* wore!
He shews, on holidays, a sacred pin,
That touch'd the ruff, that touch'd Queen Bess's chin.

SAT. IV. 113—122.

He published "The Natural History of Jamaica," in 2 vols. folio; the first in 1707; the second in 1725. "This elaborate work," says Dr. Freind, in his 'History of Physic,' "greatly tends to the honor of our country, and the enriching of the *Materia Medica*."

Sir Hans Sloane married, in 1695, Elizabeth, the daughter of Alderman Langley of London, who died in 1724, after she had brought one son, and three daughters, the youngest of which died in her infancy. Sarah, the eldest, married George Stradley, esq. of Poulton in Hampshire; and Elizabeth, the second, married Lord Cadoogan, colonel of the second troop of horse-guards, and governor of Tilbury Fort. Hans

Town, Sloane-street, &c. near Chelsea, distinguish, by their names, the site of the family-estate. A monument, to his memory, is placed over his grave, at the east end of Chelsea church-yard, next the river;—the emblem an egg surrounded by a serpent.

ANDREW BORDE, OR BOORDE.

This eccentric character forms a striking contrast with the grave and respectable personages who, at that time, maintained the dignity of a learned and liberal profession. The reputation which Andrew Borde, who, in latin, styles himself *Andreas Perforatus*, acquired among his contemporaries, must, nevertheless, be considered as a symptom of still-remaining barbarism in the manners of the time in which he lived. He was educated at Oxford, and before he had taken a degree, entered among the Carthusian friars, near London; whom, sometime afterwards, he left, and applied himself to the study of physic at Oxford; after which he travelled through most parts of Europe, and part of Africa. He settled, on his return, at Winchester, and practised, in his profession, with considerable reputation. In 1541 and 1542, we find him residing at Montpellier, where, in all probability, he took his degree of M. D., in which he was shortly afterwards at Oxford.

He lived, for some time, at Pevensey, and afterwards returned to Winchester. Here he constantly practised the austerities of the order to which he had formerly belonged, and professed celibacy, writing with vehemence against such ecclesiastics as broke their vows by marriage. This, perhaps, was the reason why he was accused, by a married bishop, of violating his own pretensions to chastity by more illicit indulgences. Certain it is, that his character was very odd and whimsical, as more particularly will appear from the books he wrote; we are, nevertheless, told that he was esteemed in his time as a man of great wit and learning, and as an excellent physician; in which latter capacity, he is said to have served Henry VIII. As Winchester was then a royal residence, he, perhaps, might be his majesty's titular physician in that place. He is also mentioned as a member of the Royal College of Physicians. That he was not, however, of such eminence as to rank with the first of his profession, may be inferred from his becoming a prisoner in the Fleet prison, where he died, in April, 1549. Bale, who bore no good-will towards any one attached to popery, intimates, that Borde hastened his death by poison, on the discovery of his keeping a brothel for his brother bachelors.

Borde was the author of several works, very

various in their subjects. One of the most important of these is entitled, "A Book of the Instruction of Knowledge," printed in London, in 1542, professing to teach all kinds of languages, the customs and fashions of all countries, and the value of every species of coin. It is written partly in verse and partly in prose; and divided into thirty-nine chapters, before each of which is a wooden cut, representing a man in the habit of some particular country.

To the seventh chapter of this work is prefixed the effigies of the author, under a canopy, with a gown, a laurel on his head, and a book before him. The title of the chapter declares that "therein is shewn how the author dwelt in Scotland and other islands, and went through and round about Christendom."

The "Breviarie of Health" is the first of his medical works, supposed by Fuller to be the earliest medical piece written in English. It was published in 1547. It has a prologue addressed to physicians, which commences in the following curious style:—"Egregious doctors and masters of the eximious and arcane science of physic, of your urbanity exasperate not yourselves against me for making this little volume."

The work itself contains a short account, in alphabetical order, of all diseases and their

remedies, adapted to the use of the vulgar. It is a very trifling and weak performance, extremely coarse in language and injudicious in matter, though not more so, perhaps, than some much later works of the same kind. The names, we are told, of diseases are professed to be given in Arabic, Greek, and Latin; and barbarous medical dialect; but either from ignorance of the author, or the blundering of the printer, the words are almost all corrupted. But that due proportion of this belongs to the author, appears from many strange mistakes, which could only originate with him, of which one of the most curious is his derivation of the word *Gonorrhœa* from Gomorrha.

Andreas Perforatus does not confine himself exclusively to the diseases of the body, but also treats of those of the mind; as in the following instances, which may serve for a specimen of his manner:—

“*The 174 chapter doth shew of an infirmitie named Hereos.*

“Hereos is the Greke worde. In Latin it is named *amor*. In English it is named love-sicke; and women may have this sickness as well as men. Young persons be much troubled with this impediment.”

“*The cause of this infirmitie.*

“This infirmitie doth come from amours, which is a fervent love for to have carnal copulacion with the party

that is loved; and, if it cannot be obtained, some be so foolish that they be ravished of theyr wittes."

" *A remedie.*

" First, I do advertise every person not to set to the *hart* that another doth set at the *hele*, let no man set his love so far, but that he may withdraw it betime, and muse not, but use mirth and merry company, and be *wyse* and not *folish*."

A more effectual remedy is given under the head *Satyriasis*; for which he recommends leaping into a great vessel of cold water, and applying nettles to the offending part.

A second part of this work, containing some articles omitted in the first, is termed the *extravagants*. They are printed together in quarto, London, 1575. At the conclusion of the first part he says, " here endeth the first booke, examined in Oxforde in June, 1546."

Another of this author's medical works is entitled " *Compendyous Regimēte, or Dictary of Health made in Mount Pyllon.*" In this work there is a good deal of plain sense without much novelty or ingenuity in his precepts. The only part in which any thing appears worth quoting, is that where he treats on the articles of diet of use in his time. The work, however, is comprehensive in its subject, and contains advice relative to the situation and building of his house—the regulation of a family, and the

ordering of economical matters, as well as directions relative to the non-naturals.

BAILLIE'S WORKS.

Dr. Baillie's writings were confined to his profession, but they were numerous and valuable. "The Morbid Anatomy of some of the most important parts of the Human Body," is the work upon which his fame as an author principally rests; and which not only has made him known in every part of Europe, and wherever medical science is cultivated, but will secure him a name in succeeding times. Like every thing that he did, it was modest and unpretending. A perfect knowledge of his subject, acquired in the midst of the fullest opportunities, enabled him to compress into a small volume as much useful information as exists in the combined works of Bonetus, Morgagni, and Lieutand. Its publication, which was in 1795, formed an era in the history of medicine in this country.

The work consisted at first of a plain statement of facts,—the description of the appearances presented on dissection, or which could be preserved and exhibited. In the second edition, Dr. Baillie added, what was an attempt of greater difficulty, which will require the experience of successive lives to perfect; namely, the

narration of symptoms corresponding with the morbid appearances.

Dr. Baillie's next work was "A Series of Engravings, to illustrate some Parts of Morbid Anatomy." These splendid engravings, which were executed from admirable drawings made by Mr. Clift, the Conservator of the Hunterian Museum in Lincoln's Inn Fields, and which were creditable at once to Dr. Baillie's own taste and liberality, and to the state of the arts in this country, were published in fasciculi, which appeared at intervals. The publication of them began in 1799, and was completed in 1802. Dr. Baillie thus laid a solid foundation for pathology, and did for his profession what scarcely any physician had done before his time.

Besides these great works, Dr. Baillie published "An Anatomical Description of the Gravid Uterus." He also contributed largely to the Transactions and medical Collections of his time.

PROGNOSTICS.

A traveller arriving at a certain city late in the evening, was taken ill, and sent for a physician, who learning, from the messenger, that the patient complained of the cholic, sent him something to afford present relief, and being

himself fatigued, deferred visiting him till the following day.

The messenger quickly returned, to express the indignation of the wife at the refusal of the physician immediately to visit her husband, who was a man of consequence. The doctor, however, repeated his refusal, saying his attendance was not requisite, and directing him to another physician; at the same time, repeating his promise to call the following day.

On the following morning, he accordingly betook himself to the inn where his patient lodged, and as soon as his name was announced, he beheld the wife rush out like a fury from a dark place into the hall. She heaped abuse on him, as a man wanting in humanity, for refusing to visit a person of the consequence of her husband, when sent for. He beheld her mildly, and begged her, as she was so much concerned about her husband, that she would immediately dispatch a servant for a medicine he had left at home, and which he expected would be of much service to him; she immediately went out to send the servant as directed. In the mean time, the physician went up to his patient, and told him if he had any matters of consequence to settle with his wife before she died, he should speedily set about it, without any loss of time, for that she

certainly would not be alive the following day at the same hour. The sick man was not a little surprized at this unexpected intelligence; considering, however, that his wife was possessed of immense wealth, which, if she died intestate, would pass to other branches of her family, as soon as she returned, he calmly observed to her, that as they were both now in a foreign country, it would be prudent to secure their fortunes reciprocally to each other by will, in case of any fatal event. She chearfully acquiesced, and dying in the course of the night, left her husband extremely rich.

The story of this singular prediction quickly spread abroad. The other physicians of the city, which was the capital of a province, were naturally anxious to know by what means he was enabled to predict, with so much certainty, an event so unexpected; to which he replied, that, "in the course of attending the anatomical lectures of the celebrated BOERHAAVE, he had learned, that if the pupil of the eye appeared very much dilated, and on coming suddenly from a dark place into a bright light, it did not in the least contract, it was a certain symptom that some blood-vessel in the brain had already given way, and that death was at no great distance, particularly if, as was the case here, although the person was in a great

passion, there were no signs of rage in the eyes.
—*Gregory.*

RAPID PROGRESS OF VACCINATION.

The honour of commencing the practice of vaccination in London is due to Mr. Cline. In the month of July, 1798, Mr. Cline inoculated a child at St. Thomas's Hospital with vaccine virus received from Dr. Jenner. He afterwards put the child to the test of inoculation with small-pox matter in three places, which it resisted. On that occasion, Mr. Cline informed Dr. Jenner, that Dr. Lister, formerly physician to the Small-pox Hospital, and himself, were convinced of the efficacy of the cow-pox, and that the substitution of that mild disease for the small-pox, promised to be one of the greatest improvements ever made in medicine. He added, "the more I think on the subject the more I am impressed with its importance."

Considerable opposition, however, was manifested to the new practice by several eminent medical men. Dr. Pearson in particular published a very unfavourable report of a number of experiments which he and Dr. Woodville had made on the subject. Dr. Jenner, therefore, felt it incumbent on him to defend the accuracy of his own statements; and accordingly, in 1799, he published "Further Observations on

the Variolæ Vaccinæ;" and subsequently, in answer to further attacks by Dr. Pearson and Dr. Woodville, "A Continuation of Facts and Observations relative to the Vaccine Variolæ." In these treatises, Dr. Jenner replied to his opponents with great dignity, moderation, and temper; vindicating the practice of vaccine inoculation from the various charges brought against it; and proving that what was ascribed to the cow-pox was in reality occasioned by the small-pox, propagated in disguise.

To the effect of these answers, the favourable reports of other practitioners, and a testimonial recommending the practice, signed by a considerable number of the most eminent physicians and surgeons in the metropolis, and published in the Medical Journal, and other respectable channels of information, greatly contributed. Mr. Ring especially distinguished himself in the defence of Dr. Jenner.

TINCTURA EJUSDEM.

A London Apothecary, of whom there are many whose attainments do not rise much above the level of the individual here described, who had perched himself near one of the new squares, had a prescription brought him from the pen of an M. D. westward, obviously levelled at a highly nervous case; and on which, it

should seem, that the writer had resolved to try the full efficacy of valerian; for, not satisfied with its concentration in the form of—" *Extract. rad. valer.*" he had superadded an order for its being duly accompanied with the " *tinctura ejusdem.*" This most completely staggered the learned person to whom the paper was now committed. In vain did he turn to all the pharmacopæias, new and old, of London or Edinburgh; and ran over the indexes of more intelligible Dispensatories, which compose the library stock of these knights of the pestle. The word " *ejusdem*" was an insurmountable stumbling-block; the drug was not to be found, either in the spirituous tincture, or in any other in the various chemical forms through which he diligently hunted for it; and being a distinct order, the usual guess of a succedaneum could not be hazarded. In this dilemma, concluding that he should not fail to find, at some of the great medicine-mongering druggists in the city, what he could not make out among his own common-place assortment, he set off at full speed eastward, having first accurately copied the name as he found it in the prescription. With this, he made his way into one of those large shops; and, presenting it boldly, inquired whether they had got the article in a prepared state as noted. The paper was received by a

youth at the counter, who, by the gape of his mouth, as he re-perused the word, which, in its disconnected situation, he did not immediately recognize, evinced that his knowledge on the subject was precisely on a level with that of the enquirer; and, after some humming and hesitation, he retired a few steps to put the paper into the hands of the principal, who chanced to be writing a letter at the desk. This gentleman, who possessed a much more extensive and classical knowledge of the Latin tongue than was necessary for the conduct of his own business, and who was a humourous observer of character, immediately smoked the gross ignorance of the applicant; and it was with some difficulty he restrained a burst of laughter, as he turned his eye to take measure of the other's inanity, stifling it as well as he could with—"O yes, sir!—we have the article; and I'll attend you myself, the moment I have folded up a letter."—This furnished the means of composing his features into all due gravity; when making his advance towards the counter, under the mask of great apparent attention, he continued—"So, Sir! I presume you want this for the purpose of combining with—,"—"Precisely so, sir!" "And you wish it of the first quality?"—"Sir! I should be sorry to trifle with the just expectation of any man by the use of a secondary

article.”—“Your delicacy, sir, is highly commendable; and I will be equally ingenuous with you:—we have it;—but, I am afraid not quite in that state in which a gentleman like you, perhaps, ought to place much reliance on it. We had an accident with our last:—next week we shall be enabled to supply any of your future wants. In the mean time, as it is a thing rather out of the usual routine of the shops, I would advise you to step to Apothecaries’ Hall for your present supply, where you cannot fail to meet with it, and with the greatest chance of perfection; and where you will, undoubtedly, be enabled to procure such further information concerning the *tinctura ejusdem*, as you may, probably, find of some importance to you hereafter.—Sir! I wish you a very good morning!” so saying, he dismissed the gentleman, highly gratified with this apparent superflux of ingenuousness and civility, and literally blind to the sardonic smile-grin with which he was sent on the errand of exposing his ignorance at the fountain-head.

WOMEN WITH HORNS.

We copy the title of a very scarce tract: “A brief Narrative of a strange and wonderful Old Woman, that hath a Pair of Horns growing upon her Head: giving a true account how they

have several times, after their being shed, grown again: declaring the place of her birth, her education, and conversation; with the first occasion of their growth, the time of their continuance, and where she is now to be seen, viz. at the sign of the Swan, near Charing Cross. With allowance. London: printed by T. J. 1676, small 4to." As the tract is particularly scarce, we will give the whole of it.

"Reader: it may be, upon the first view of the title of this short relation, thou wilt throw it down with all the carelessness imaginable, supposing it to be but an idle and impertinent fiction, such as some frontless persons have too frequently exposed to public view, on purpose to impose upon the credulity of the gazing multitude, who are apt to gaze at wonders, and to think all true as the gospel that they see in print. That this may court thy more favourable thoughts, call to minde that such as intend to deceive, tell of wonders that are too remote, and too far distant from thee either suddenly to disprove, or presently to confirm thyself in the belief of what they have told. This gives thee an account of what thou mayest with little trouble, and as small expence, behold. Take but a walk to the Swan, in the Strand, near Charing Cross, and there thou mayest satisfie thy curiosity, and be able to tell the world whether this following narration be truth or invention. There thou mayest see a woman hath horns growing upon the hinder part of her head; an object not onely worthy of your sight but admiration too! She is 76 years of age, bred and born in the parish of Shotwick, in Cheshire, and within four miles of Chester; tenant unto his blessed Majesty, upon a farm of 16*l.* per annum; so that she is not necessitated to this course of life, or to deceive the credu-

lous and short-sighted people ; but to manifest to the world such a wonder in nature as hath neither been read nor heard of since the creation. She was wife to one Master Henry Davies, who dyed 35 years passed, and since, she hath lived a religious widow all along, of a spotless and unblameable life and conversation, of singular use to her neighbours and acquaintance, who brought her many miles on her journey. This strange and stupendous effect began first from a soreness in that place where now the horns grew ; which (as 'tis thought) was occasioned by wearing a straight hat (mark that!). This soreness continued twenty years, in which time it miserably afflicted this good woman, and ripened gradually into a wenn near the bigness of a large hen egg, which continued for the space of five years, more sadly tormenting her than before ; after which time it was, by a strange operation of nature, changed into horns, which are in shew and substance much like a ram's horn, solid and wrinckled, but sadly grieving the old woman, especially upon the change of weather. But more accurately to describe its nature and manner of production, may be a subject proper for a colledge of physitians ; and no question but it will be esteemed worthy to employ the ingenious vertuosos of the age, who need not their glasses to magnifie its wonder. She hath cast her horns three times already ; the first time was but a single horn, which grew long, but as slender as an oaten straw : the second was thicker than the former : the two first Mr. Hewson, minister of Shotwick (to whose wife this rarity was first discovered) obtained of the old woman his parishioner : they kept not an equal distance of time in falling off, some at three, some at four, and another at four years and a half's growth. The third time grew two horns, both which were beat off by a fall backward ; one of them an English Lord obtained, and

(as is reported) presented it to the French King for the greatest rarity in nature, and received with no less admiration. The other (which was the largest) was nine inches long, and two inches about; it is much valued for the novelty, a greater than any John Tradeskin (probably John Tradescant, who had a museum, is here meant) can set to view, or the greatest traveller can with truth affirm to have seen. Sir Willoughby Aston hath also another horn, which dropt from this woman's head, and reserves it as a choice rarity. At this present she hath a paire of horns upon her head of six months' growth. And 'tis not without reason believed, they will, in a short time, bee larger than any of the former; for still the latter have exceeded the former in bignes. The circumstance of this relation considered or examined, at least with the sight of her, I hope it will not readily be believed to be an imposture, or artificial projecting: for so grossly to impose upon his Majesty, and all his loyal subjects, would be an unpardonable crime, and would deserve men's contempt, and not their company, and certainly expose the party to the violence of a rude multitude, who discovering a cheat, would, I believe, soon make the old woman pull in her horns." There is a print of this woman in Dr. Charles Leigh's Natural History of Lancashire, Cheshire, and the Peake of Derbyshire, folio, tab. 7. Her picture and one of her horns are in Ashmole's Museum, and the other is said to be in the British Museum.

This is not the only instance of human horns. In the Journal of the Learned, August, 1672, we read of a man who had a horn growing out of one of the joints under his legs. Also, that a maid at Palermo had horns like those of a young bull. It is related by Bayle,

from a letter of Dr. Sylvius, (*Nouvelles de la Republique des Lettres, July, 1686*) of "A girl (says he) born of poor parents at Waterford, in Ireland, cast forth, some short time after her birth, several horns like unto those of rams, not in the head, but in the joints of her arms, feet, hands, and fingers, and in the fleshy parts of her body. What is more considerable still is, that they came forth in numbers out of her breast when she came to be nine years of age, which was the time that our society (at Dublin) examined the child. The body of that girl is dry, and as consumed, too dry and too hot. The horns are ash-coloured, mixed with yellow, and their substance is hard, without any stench. They endeavoured at first to eradicate those horns; but they shot forth again, and were much bigger than at first."

It appears that Dr. William Roots, of Kingston-upon-Thames, amputated an excrescence of this sort, in February, 1811, exactly resembling a ram's horn, from the head of a man between fifty and sixty years of age, a drawing of which, in its growing state, he presented to Sir Astley Cooper. The sufferer's name was John Kennedy, a gardener at Thames Ditton, in Surry.

PRACTICE OF THE HINDOOS.

The successful cultivation of the healing art by European skill and learning, has left us nothing to look for from the Hindoos. In the present state of their knowledge, indeed, we have every thing to teach them, but we are not to infer, from what we now behold, that they were never better instructed. Their *nidan*, or diagnosis, appears to define and distinguish symptoms with great accuracy, and their *druvyabhidhana*, or materia-medica, is sufficiently voluminous. They have also paid great attention to regimen and diet, and have a number of works on the food and general treatment suited to the complaint, or favourable to the operation of medicine administered; this branch they entitled *pathapathya*. To these are to be added, the *chikitsa*, or medical treatment of diseases; on which subject they have a variety of compositions, containing much absurdity, with much that is of value; and the *rosavidya*, or pharmacy, in which they are most deficient. All these works, however, are of little avail to the present generation, as they are very rarely studied, and still more rarely understood by any of the practising empirics.

The division of the science thus noticed, as existing in books, exclude two important

branches, without which the whole system is defective—Anatomy and Surgery. We can easily imagine that these were not likely to have been much cultivated in Hindostan; and that local disadvantages, and religious prejudices, might have formed very serious impediments to their acquirement. Something of the former might be accidentally picked up, by the occasional inspection of dead bodies, which happened to be exposed; but we can scarcely expect dissections of the human species among the Hindoos, when we find that the Greeks themselves did not venture beyond quadrupeds, even in the time of Aristotle. In the absence of anatomy, of course, little was to be looked for in surgery; and it has been taken for granted, that, whatever might have been the character of medical science amongst the Hindoos, in former days, an almost utter ignorance has always prevailed on the subjects most essential to its perfect possession and practical application. These ideas, however, are perhaps partially erroneous, and rest on our imperfect knowledge of the medical literature of the Hindoos.

The Hindoo compositions on medical subjects, and even their own accounts of them, whether fables or facts, have hitherto been scarcely adverted to by Sanscrit scholars. The subject is not of general interest; and requires a two-

fold qualification, not likely to be often combined in the individual who embarks in it; as it is also a matter more of curiosity than utility, there is little inducement to its prosecution. At the same time, vulgar errors are always mischievous, and their correction would in some sort repay the labour that should effect so salutary a purpose. There are, no doubt, amongst the members of the medical profession in India, many competent to the task of giving to the world an accurate view of the Hindoo system; and it is not intended here to anticipate any part of their labours, in the few desultory notices we propose to offer, on the existence and history of Hindoo surgery.

The *Ayur Veda*, as the medical writings of the highest antiquity and authority are collectively called, is considered to be a portion of the fourth or athaxva veda, and is consequently the work of Brahma; by him it was communicated to *Dacsha* the *Prajapati*; and by him the two Aswins, or sons of Surya, the Sun, were instructed in it, and they then became the medical attendants of the gods; a genealogy that cannot fail recalling to us the two sons of Esculapius, and their descent from Apollo. Now what were the duties of the Aswins, according to Hindoo authority? the gods, enjoying eternal youth and health, stood in no need of phy-

sicians, and consequently they held no such sinecure station. The wars between the gods and the demons, however, and the conflicts among the gods themselves, in which wounds might be suffered although death was not inflicted, required chirurgical aid; and it was this, accordingly, which the two Aswins rendered. They performed many extraordinary cures, as might have been expected, from their superhuman character. When Brahma's fifth head was cut off by Rudra, they replaced it—a feat worthy their exalted rank in the profession to which they belonged, and little capable of imitation by their unworthy successors.

The meaning of these legendary absurdities is clear enough, and is conformable to the tenor of all history. Man, in the semi-barbarous state, if not more subject to external injuries than internal disease, was at least more likely to seek remedies for the former, which were obvious to his senses, than to imagine the means of relieving the latter, whose nature he could so little comprehend.

Surgical, therefore, preceded medicinal skill; as Celsus has asserted, when commenting on Homer's account of Podalirius and Machaon, who were not consulted, he says, during the plague in the Grecian camp, although regularly employed to extract darts and heal wounds.

The same position is maintained, as we shall hereafter see, by the Hindoo writers, in plain as well as in legendary language.

According to some authorities, the Aswins instructed Indra, and Indra was the preceptor of Dhanwantari; but others make Atreya, Bhadrakwaja, and Charaka prior to the latter. Charaka's work, which goes by his name, is extant. Dhanwantari is also styled Kasiraja, prince of Kasi or Benares. His disciple was Surutta, the son of Viswamitra, and consequently a contemporary of Rama; his work also exists, and is our chief guide at present. It is unquestionably of some antiquity: but it is not easy to form any conjecture of its real date, except that it cannot have the prodigious age which Hindoo fable assigns to it; it is sufficient to know, that it is perhaps the oldest work on the subject excepting that of Charaka, which the Hindoos possess. One commentary on the text, made by Ubhattas, a Cashmerian, is probably as old as the twelfth or thirteenth century; and his comment, it is believed, was preceded by others. The work is divided into six portions—the *sutra st'hana*, or surgical definitions; the *nidana st'hana*, or section on symptoms, or diagnosis; *sariva st'hana*, anatomy; *chikitsa st'hana*, the internal application of medicines; *halpa st'hana*, antidotes; *uttara st'hana*, or supplementary section,

on various local diseases, or affections of the eyes, ears, &c.

In all these divisions, however, surgery and not general medicine is the object of the *Sausrutta*.

The *Ayur Veda*, which originally consisted of one hundred sections, of a thousand stanzas each, was adapted to the limited faculties and life of man, by its distribution into eight subdivisions, the enumeration of which conveys to us an accurate idea of the objects of the *Ars Medendi* amongst the Hindoos. The divisions are thus enumerated:—1. *Salia*; 2. *Salakya*; 3. *Kaya Chikitsa*; 4. *Bhutavidya*; 5. *Kaumara-bhritya*; 6. *Agada*; 7. *Rosayana*; and 8. *Bajikorana*. They are explained as follow:

1. *Salia* is the art of extracting extraneous substances, whether of glass, wood, earth, metal, bone, &c.—violently or accidentally introduced into the human body; with the treatment of the inflammation and suppuration thereby induced; and by analogy, the cure of all phlegmonoid tumours and abscesses. The word *salia* means a dart or arrow, and points clearly to the origin of this branch of the Hindoo science. In like manner the *Hiatros*, or physician of the Greeks was derived, according to Sextus Empiricus, from *Hios*, an arrow or dart.

2. *Salakya* is the treatment of external or-

ganic affections or diseases of the eyes, ears, nose, &c. It is derived from *Salaka*, which means any thin and sharp instrument, and is either applicable in the same manner as *Salia*, to the active causes of the morbid state, or it is borrowed from the generic name of the slender probes and needles used in operations on the parts affected.

3. *Kaya Chikitsa* is, as the name implies, the application of the *Ars Medendi* (*Chikitsa*) to the *body* in general (*Kaya*), and forms what we mean by the science of medicine; the two preceding divisions constitute the surgery of modern schools.

4. *Bhutavidya* is the restoration of the faculties from a disorganized state, induced by demoniacal possession. This art has vanished before the diffusion of knowledge, but it formed a very important branch of medical practice through all the schools, Greek, Arabic, or European, and descended to days very near our own, as a reference to Burton's *Anatomy of Melancholy* may prove to general readers.

5. *Kaumarabhritya* means the care of infancy, comprehending not only the management of children from their birth, but the treatment of irregular lactic secretion, and puerperal disorders in mothers and nurses; this holds with us also the place that its importance claims.

6. *Agada* is the administration of antidotes, a subject as far as it rests upon scientific principles, is blended with our medicine and surgery.

7. *Rasayana* is chemistry, or more correctly alchemy, as the chief end of the chemical combinations it describes, and which are mostly metallurgic, is the discovery of the universal medicine; the elixir that was to render health permanent and life perpetual.

8. The last branch, *Bajikarana*, professes to promote the increase of the human race; an illusory research, which, as well as the preceding, is not without its parallel in ancient and modern times.

There is, therefore, included in these branches all the real and fanciful pursuits of physicians of every time and place. Suruta, however, confines his own work to the classes *Salya* and *Salakya*, or surgery: although, by an arrangement not uncommon with our own writers, he introduces occasionally the treatment of general diseases, and the management of women and children, when discussing those topics to which they bear relation. Pure surgery, however, is his aim; and it is the particular recommendation of Dhauwautori; *Salia* being, he declares expressly, "the first and best of the medical sciences, less liable than any other of the fallacies of conjectural and inferential prac-

tice, pure in itself, perpetual in its applicability, the worthy produce of heaven and certain source of fame."

From these premises we may be satisfied that surgery was once extensively cultivated and highly esteemed by the Hindoos. Its rational principles and scientific practice are, however, now, it may be admitted, wholly unknown to them; what they formerly were may, at some future period, be detailed.

PURPLES.

Occasionally, after death, the body is covered with large red blotches, which are vulgarly termed purples, and it is, therefore, often alleged that the physician had mistaken the disease, as the patient died of the purples, which manifested themselves after death. These spots are, in fact, only the dissolved blood stagnating in the small vessels.

In the history of the Academy of Sciences may be found a regular case of epidemic purples, combined with worms, which occurred in Lorraine. When the sick were properly treated, a number of worms were discharged, and the purple eruption made its appearance. Those who recovered lost the whole epidermis; others died within three days of the attack, and the bodies became so quickly putrid, that

those employed to bury them frequently caught the contagion.

A species of purple occurs in China, which is cured in the following strange manner: They dip the pith of a rush in oil, which they set on fire, and apply the flame in succession to the spots. The skin cracks, with a kind of snapping sound. The corrupted blood is squeezed out, and a little powdered ginger rubbed into the part. This must doubtless be a painful remedy, but its efficacy is so well ascertained by experience, that it is universally employed. In the "*Lettres Edifiantes*," various missionaries declare they have seen wonderful cures performed by this means.

HERNIA.

A young surgeon, being under examination respecting the treatment of rupture, was asked what means of cure he would employ in a case of strangulated Hernia. Having missed one mean, that sometimes succeeds in desperate cases, the application of ice, he was reminded of it by the examiner, who inquired how he would employ that remedy. He replied, with much simplicity and gravity, that he would warm the ice along with some butter or grease, and so prepare a cataplasm to be applied to the tumor. The merriment excited by this reply,

put an end to the examination.—The simplicity of this young man was not more singular than the politeness of one of our own court physicians. One of the princesses being a little indisposed, inquired of the attendant physician “whether she might not have a little ice?” The reply of course was, “Certainly.” His M——, who takes great concern in all such matters, observed that it might, perhaps, be too cold for the patient’s stomach. “If your M—— thinks so, it is easy to take the chill off it,” replies the courtly Doctor.

DUMOULIN, OR RATHER MOLIN, PHYSICIAN.

If you have occasion for physicians, says the Schola Salernitina, there are three to whom you may apply at all times with safety; these are, a cheerful mind, moderate exercise, and a regulated regimen. So said Dumoulin, the most celebrated physician of his time. In his last moments, being surrounded by several of his colleagues, who deplored his loss, he addressed them thus:—“Gentlemen, I leave behind me three excellent physicians.” Each of the doctors present conceived himself to be one of the three; but they were soon undeceived, when Dumoulin informed them, that the three he meant were water, exercise, and regimen.

Dumoulin was fond of money, and he received a great deal. Many anecdotes are mentioned respecting this matter. On leaving one of his patients, who had made him a handsome payment in coined money, as the amount was considerable, he put it into his pocket. On returning home, his first thought was to count the number of pieces he had received. The attention he paid to the reckoning prevented him from perceiving a friend who was waiting for him in his apartment. This person pleasantly said, "allow me to hand you a chair." Dumoulin looked at him with a contemptuous sneer, saying, "learn, blockhead, that a man never feels tired when counting his money."

A great love for this precious metal is generally accompanied with a slight tincture of avarice. In this respect Dumoulin yielded to no one. On one occasion he was sent for to visit the prince, Count of Clermont, who was indisposed. The surgeon who came for him was in one of the royal carriages, driven by the body coachman. After the visit to the prince, Dumoulin took the liberty of using the carriage to pay two or three other visits in the neighbourhood of the prince's residence. After the last visit, he felt in his pockets for some time; and at length found sixpence, which he tendered to the coachman. This was of course

refused, but he frequently amused himself in repeating this tale to his associate.

Dumoulin received three louis for every visit to the prince. On another occasion, in consultation with M. Sylva, a physician not less famous than himself, but better informed, and less interested, he visited a man of high rank, who was so dangerously ill, that at their last visit he died in their hands. This sudden death being quite unexpected, it occasioned considerable consternation and murmur in the apartment, and particularly in the anti-chamber, where the domestics allowed themselves to adopt the most licentious conversation, and even threatened them with unpleasant consequences. M. Sylva, naturally timid, was alarmed, and communicated his fears to M. Dumoulin, saying, "By what door shall we escape?" Dumoulin, having no fear but that of not being paid, replied, "by the door where they pay," and intrepidly left the apartment, followed by Sylva, who trembled. This constitutes a trait of character equalled by the following.

A great economist, not to say a miser, having heard that Dumoulin far surpassed him in saving knowledge, waited on him one winter evening, about eight o'clock. He found him sitting in a small room, illuminated, or rather

darkened, by the smokey light of a single lamp. On entering, he said to him, "I have heard that you are one of the greatest economists existing; I also am so inclined; but, conscious of my imperfection, I should be happy to become your pupil on this point. "Is that all?" replied Dumoulin, "Be seated, sir;" and in saying so, he extinguished the lamp. "There is no occasion for light to show us how to talk; it only produces inattention.—Well, what is your object?"—"Sir," cried the stranger, "the lesson of economy I have already received is enough. I shall always remain a scholar in respect to you. I shall endeavour to profit by the lesson I have received," and so withdrew in the best way he could in the dark.

BUXTON WATERS, &c. &c.

The earliest account we have of these celebrated mineral springs, which have their source in the village of Buxton, in Derbyshire, is in a "Book of Simples," written by William Bulleyn, a physician and author of some repute, who was born at the Isle of Ely, in the early part of the reign of Henry VIII.

The book in question is merely an enumeration of the articles of the *Materia Medica*, collected chiefly from the ancients. Under the head of water, the Baths of *Buckstone* are spo-

ken of as having “done many and sundry good cures, both to the sore and lame.”

Speaking of fruit, the same author gives additional testimony that horticulture, at that period, was not in so low a state as some have represented. He notices a delicious kind of pear, growing in the city of Norwich, called the Blackfriars’ pear, thought to be the finest in England. He mentions cherries as very plentiful, particularly in Kent; and adds, that he has seen very good grapes growing in several parts of England.

A curious account is given of a wild pea, growing spontaneously on the sea-coast. “*Anno salutis* 1555, in a place called Orford, in Suffolk, between the haven and the mayne sea, whereas never plough came, nor natural earth was, but stones only, there did pease grow, whose rootes were more than three fadome long, and the coddles did grow upon clusters like the chats or keys of ashe-trees, bigger than fitches, and less than the field-peason, very sweete to eat upon, and served many poore people, dwelling there at hand, which els should have perished for hunger, the scarcity of bread was so great.”

An odd mistake is also related concerning the use of the herb mercury, which Lord Wharton was accustomed to take medicinally in his broth,

of an ignorant fellow, in the absence of the cook going to the apothecaries, instead of the gardeners, and procuring the sublimate of mercury, which he boiled in his lordship's broth, and was very nearly destroying him by the blunder.

In speaking of the ebony wood, he mentions certain superstitious uses to which beads made of it were put, being employed as charms for the cure of diseases. Under this head, he inveighs, with great warmth, against the sin of witchcraft, affirming it to be "more hurtful in this realm than either quartan, pox, or pestilence;" lamenting, at the same time, that "damnable witches should be suffered to live unpunished, and so many blessed men burned."

In another of Bulleyn's works, the "Book of Compounds," consisting of a miscellaneous *formulae* of medicines for internal as well as external use, there is a very generous eulogy bestowed on the ladies and gentlemen who benevolently employed themselves in curing the diseases of their less fortunate neighbours, which we shall transcribe, in commemoration of such laudable, generous, and well-disposed designs:—"Many good men and women within this realme have divers and sundry medicines for the canker, (cancer) and do help their neighbours that be in peril and danger, which be not only poor and needy, having no money to spend in chirurgirie,

but some do well where no chirurgians be neere at hand.* In such cases, as I have sayd, many good gentlemen and ladyes have done no small pleasure to poore people: as that excellent knyght and worthy learned man, Syr Thomas Eliot, whose works be immortal; Sir Phillip Paris, of Cambridgeshire, whose cures deserve prayse; Sir William Gascoyne, of Yorkshire, that helped many sore eyen; and the Lady Taylor, of Huntingdonshire; and the Lady Danel of Kent, had many precious medicines to comfort the sight, and to heal wounds withal, and were well seene in herbs. The commonwealth had great want of them and theyr medicines; which if they had come into my hands, they should not have been written on the backside of my booke. Among all other there was a knyght, a man of great worship, a godly hurtless gentleman, which is departed this life; his name is Sir Anthony Heningham (of Heningham, Suffolk.) This gentleman learned a water to kill a canker of his own mother, &c."

There is another of Dr. Bullyen's publications, which is, we believe, the last, as well as the most singular, entitled, "A Dialogue, both pleasante and pietifull; wherein is a goodlie Regi-

* This philippic can have no reference, however prophetically it may speak, to the present time.

ment against the Fever Pestilence ; with a Consolation and Comfort against Death," 8vo. 1564. Dr. Bulleyn was another physician to Henry VIII. He died in 1576, and was buried in the same grave with his brother Richard, who died thirteen years before, in the church of Cripple-gate. He suffered a long and serious prosecution for the supposed unskilful treatment of a person who died of a fever. The charge was preferred against him by the brother of his patient, who was Sir Thomas Hilton, Baron of Hilton. He was arraigned before the Duke of Norfolk, and the most unjustifiable means were used to procure his condemnation. He had, however, the good fortune to clear his own innocence, and to detect the malice of his prosecutor.—The following quartetto is engraved on his tablet:—

" Surfeyte, age, and sicknesses, are enemys to health,
Medicine to mend the body, excell all worldly wealth ;
Pisicke shall flourishe, and in daunger will give cure,
Till death unknit the lively knot, no longer to endure."

SUPERSTITION.

Sir Thomas Browne says, (*Religio Medici*),
" For my part I have ever believed, and do now know, that there are witches ; they that doubt of these do not only deny them, but spirits ; and are obliquely, and upon consequence, a sort,

not of infidels but atheists. Those that, to confute their incredulity, desire to see apparitions, shall questionless never behold any, nor have the power to be so much as witches." Sir Thomas also thinks, "We do surely owe the discovery of many secrets to the discovery of good and bad angels:" And further, "I do think that many mysteries, ascribed to our own inventions, have been the courteous revelations of spirits." Lord Bacon, the reputed philosopher, says, "the ointment that witches use is reported to be made of the fat of children, digged out of their graves; of the juices of smallage, wolfbane, and cinquefoil, mingled with the meal of fine wheat: but I suppose that the soporiferous medicines are *likeliest to do it*, which are henbane, hemlock, mandrake, moonshade, tobacco, opium, saffron, poplar-leaves," &c.

JAPANESE MEDICINE.

Medicine is practised in Japan by a kind of hermit called Jammabos. The people have the more confidence in their art, that they employ no natural methods of performing their cures, but a kind of sorcery. While the patient is giving a faithful account of what he feels, the Jammabo is occupied in tracing on paper certain characters, which have analogy with their temperaments and the disease by which

they are afflicted. Next he places the memorial upon the altar of his favourite deity, and practises certain mysterious ceremonies, which, in his opinion, possess the means of imparting to this paper healing powers; he then tears it in pieces, and forms it into pills, of which the patient is to swallow a certain number every morning fasting. The use of these pills require, indeed, some preparation; the patient is required to drink a glass of river or spring water, and to be particularly careful, while so doing, to turn his face to the south or north, as circumstances may require.

This superstition has been equalled in this country. A physician wrote a prescription for a poor woman, and desired her to apply it to her breast. She returned in a few days, saying she was much better, with the prescription tied round her neck with a piece of tape.

In the palace of the Emperor Monomotopa, there is a place allotted for the reception of the bodies of criminals who have suffered capital punishments. They are suspended from the ceiling, and their fluids expressed from their bodies while still fresh. Of these humours a precious elixir is composed, by the use of which the emperor expects to prolong his life, and escape the effects of sorcery.

MUSIC EMPLOYED MEDICINALLY.

Democritus affirmed that many diseases are capable of being cured by the sound of a flute properly played. M. Burette, in a dissertation on the music of the ancients, to be found in the 15th volume of the Memoirs of the Academy of Belles Lettres, mentions many diseases cured by this species of music ; among which he reckons quartan fevers, the plague, syncope, insanity, epilepsy, deafness, the bites of serpents ; and he cites, as vouchers for these cures, the authority of many Greek and Roman authors of respectability. Marianus Capellus assures us, that fevers may be cured by appropriate songs ; and Asclepiades employed the sound of a trumpet as a remedy. The Cretan Taletas delivered the Lacedemonians from the plague by the sweetness of his lyre. Do not we learn from the holy scriptures, that David calmed the fury of Saul by the tone of his harp ? Athenæus asserts, that the sound of the flute cures sciatica, with this addition, that the flute must be played in the Phrygian mode. Aulus Gellius, on the contrary, recommends a soft and plaintive mode, not one of vehemence, like the Phrygian. Cœlius Aurelianus determines even the length to which this species of enchantment should be carried ; that is, till the fibres

of the part begin to leap and palpitate, when the pain vanishes, *quos cum saltum sumerent palpitando, discusso dolore, mitescerent.*

ELIXIR OF LIFE.

An Emperor of China received, from an impostor, an elixir of which he exhorted him to drink, promising that it would confer immortality upon him. A mandarin present, after having in vain attempted to dissuade the emperor from trusting to the promises of an empiric, seized the cup and drank off the liquor. The prince, enraged at his boldness, threatened to condemn him to instant death; to which the other with perfect tranquillity replied, "sire, if this elixir really confers immortality, you will in vain attempt to put me to death; if it does not, can you be so unjust as to deprive me of life for so trifling a theft?" This remark calmed the rage of the emperor; and the history adds, that the effect of the elixir was to put the mandarin's life in the utmost danger.

Another Emperor of China, still more attached to life than the former, and infatuated with the secrets of the philosopher's stone, persuaded himself that it was not impossible to discover an elixir that would render him immortal. This notion he communicated to his

physician. The latter tried various plans to escape from the unreasonable caprice of the emperor: at length he hit upon a successful expedient. He told him, that the simples, requisite to compose this precious elixir, grew in some neighbouring islands, but that they must absolutely be culled by pure and innocent hands, without which they would possess no virtue. He added, that it was necessary to send thither three hundred youths and maidens of unsullied manners and of tender age, yet sufficiently robust to sustain the fatigues of the journey. The emperor approved of the project, and committed to the physician the conduct of the expedition. They arrived happily at Japan, where, instead of amusing themselves with the vain project of gathering plants, they occupied themselves with peopling an island, which was called Nipon.

Burke's Travels in India.

EMETICS.

We find the following observation in a French work:—"What would be said of a physician who, for spitting of blood, should prescribe an emetic of four or five grains of ipecacuanha? His rashness would certainly expose him to the derision of his colleagues and the reproaches of the public. There is, how-

ever, in the history of the Academy of Sciences, for 1715, an observation of M. Rohalt, on the vomiting of blood, which this practitioner repeatedly arrested by the administration of an emetic: such facts set at nought the reasoning of system." This affords a curious proof of the changes in medical opinion. There is no remedy more in use, at present, in hæmoptysis than ipecacuanha, and no practitioner, of experience, would feel alarm in prescribing it.

When Louis XIV. was at the point of death at Calais, July, 1658, his life was saved by the exhibition of an emetic. Soon afterwards, Cardinal Mazarin died in consequence of having taken one; it was then said, that an emetic was indeed a potent remedy, having twice saved France.

ON CASTRATION.

One melancholy consequence of that state of mind, which sometimes attacks men who find themselves unable, by the force of reason, to subdue unruly appetites, is the mutilation of the rebellious members. Although such instances, happily, are not of frequent occurrence, they have been collected by physicians as proofs of the power to which a disturbed imagination may drive even a healthy man, determined to sacrifice nature to false notions

of religion. This passage of the scripture, "There are some men who have made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of Heaven," being misunderstood by Origen, determined him to practice, according to the latter, this precept, which is merely allegorical. Nor was he aware of the turpitude of his conduct, until Demetrius, Bishop of Alexandria, caused him to be degraded, banished, and excommunicated by a general council.

Most of those who, from motives not less absurd than cruel, have followed this example, have been its victims. The Journal of Medicine for March, 1778, furnishes two remarkable instances. In 1771, a young lawyer, who performed this operation upon himself, perished in the course of a few hours; the law punishes this description of suicide, as injurious to population. The parliament of Dijon, a few years ago, caused a man to be hanged, who had thus mutilated himself, to be revenged of his wife, who was extremely jealous.

Among the Hottentots, it is the custom, on attaining the age of puberty, to remove one of the testicles. Kalb says, in his description of the Cape, that he saw this operation performed on a Hottentot eighteen years of age. These people imagine that this privation augments swiftness of foot. A circumstantial account

of the mode of performing this operation, may be found in the author just quoted.

Zacchary Pasqualigus, a Theatin of Verona, about the middle of the last century, composed a moral treatise on the subject of castration, which is still prized on account of the singularity of the subject and style. He justifies this barbarous mutilation, by the improvement it produces in the human voice, which, he says, is of more importance to the edification of the church, than the filthy instrument of generation, the source of so much sin and mischief. The Greeks, about the year 1400, first introduced, among other abuses, the custom of employing eunuchs in sacred music.

Pope Gregory the XIIth having instituted a solemn procession and thanksgiving for the horrible massacre of St. Bartholomew, a Captain Bressart, a gentleman of Anguir, and a protestant, who had escaped this general butchery, was so enraged at hearing this, that he swore he would castrate every monk who fell into his hands, an oath which he kept but too punctually; nor was he ashamed to wear a bandaleer, formed of these cruel and ridiculous mutilations.

The custom of castration is very ancient, as well as extensive. In Egypt, it was the punishment of adultery. In Persia, Pietro de la Vallé

says, it was the punishment of robbery and other minor offences. In some countries, mothers mutilate their male children, in order to extinguish their posterity, for fear they should fall into poverty. In Italy, they so far abuse nature, as to extirpate the testicles for the sake of improving the voice. Even at present, all over Asia and Africa, jealousy prompts the rich to have, for guards to their women, eunuchs, who are completely deprived of the external tokens of virility.

Instead of amputating the testicles, their growth is sometimes prevented by immersing the children in baths composed of certain herbs. This species of castration was termed attrition, and was less dangerous to life.

In a book, entitled "*Eunuchism Displayed*," it is said, that eunuchs are made in three ways; by extirpation, by twisting the testicles, and by the internal use of hemlock.

M. Dujardin has thrown much light on this subject, in his excellent history of surgery. The origin of castration is buried in the darkness of the most remote antiquity. He thinks, that some persons, who had become eunuchs by accident, first suggested the idea of making them artificially. He thinks this odious invention originated in Asia, but among what people is unknown. Ammianus Marcellinus thinks this

detestable mutilation was invented by Semiramis, and supposes she adopted this expedient after the death of her husband Ninus; in order that those who approached her might have nothing in their voice or manner that should detect the usurpation, Ninias, her son, bribed one of her eunuchs to deprive her of life.—*Hist. des Sciences Medicales.*

FRANCIS ANTHONY.

This celebrated apothecary first drew breath in London, April 16th, 1550. His father was an eminent goldsmith and banker in the city, and had an employment, of considerable value, in the jewel-office, under Queen Elizabeth.

Anthony, after having been instructed in the rudiments of learning at home, was removed to Cambridge, about the year 1569, where he diligently applied himself to his studies; and upon taking his degree, in arts, in 1574, he engaged with ardour in the pursuit of chemical knowledge. It does not appear that, according to the custom of the time, he went abroad for improvement in these studies; but, it is probable, he continued at Cambridge till he was pretty far advanced in life; when he came to London, and began to publish the result of his enquiries, which first appeared in a treatise, concerning a panacea extracted from gold,

printed at Hamburgh, in 1598, with which, and other remedies, he undertook the cure of various diseases; but, being of the chemical sect, he did not apply to the College of Physicians, for their licence, and was summoned before the president and censors, to answer for his illegal practice. Of this affair, the following account is given by Dr. Goodall, which we insert, as a specimen of the arbitrary manner in which the college proceeded at that time, against practising apothecaries:—

“ In the 42d of Queen Elizabeth, Francis Anthony, Master of Arts, in Cambridge, twenty-six years, and afterwards Doctor of Physic in our own Universities, appeared before the president and censors, confessing that he had practised physic in London for six months, and had cured twenty or more divers diseases, to whom he had given vomiting and purging physic; to others a diaphoretic medicine, prepared from gold and mercury; but, withal, acknowledged that he had no license to practice. He was examined in the several parts of physic, and found very weak and ignorant;* wherefore, he was interdicted practice. About a month after, he was committed to the Compter prison, and fined 5*l.*, *propter illicitam praxin*, in that he prescribed physic against the statutes and privileges of the College; but within a fortnight or three weeks he was, by a warrant from the lord-chief-justice, taken out of prison and restored to his liberty. Wherefore it was ordered, that the president and one of the

* That is to say, he did not follow the rules of Galen^s but practised upon the new chemical principles.—ED.

censors should wait upon the chief-justice, with a petition from the College, to request his favour in defending and preserving the College privileges; upon which, Anthony submits himself to the College's censure, and begs their favour. Wherefore, it was ordered, that he should forthwith pay to the treasurer of the College the 5*l*. due for his fine, which he promised to do, and was, likewise, interdicted practice. Not long after, he was again accused practising physic, which he confessed, wherefore, he was punished 5*l*. for practising against the statutes of the College, and his own promise; but he refusing to pay it, was committed to prison, and fined 20*l*. About eight months after, order was given by the censors for prosecuting him at law, he having confessed three years' practice within the city, and his prescribing medicines lately to one that died, and to another in great danger. After this, Anthony's wife petitioned the College that they would deal mercifully with her husband, and restore him to his liberty. This petition was rejected, it being now out of the College's power to set him at liberty, the suit depending being commenced in the queen's name as well as the college's. Wherefore, about two months after, Mrs. Anthony delivered a second petition to the College, with so great importunity and tears, that partly on account of Anthony's poverty, &c. they granted the following warrant to the keeper of the prison."

This warrant specifies they are willing to discharge their part of Anthony's debt, so that it be nowise prejudicial to her majesty's part, which was 30*l*.

" Two years after Anthony's release from prison, Dr. Taylor, with two physicians more of the college, and some other persons, complained against him for prescribing physic to several patients, amongst which one

died upon the use of his remedies; another lost all his teeth; a third fell into such violent vomitings and looseness, that the day after he died, and charged his death upon Anthony, who had said, that when all other remedies failed him, he used this as his last and extreme one; which, in the nature of it, would either kill or cure. The president and censors gave order for his prosecution according to law. After which order, several fresh complaints were brought against him; as his prescribing his *aurum potabile* to a reverend divine, who, upon his death-bed complained that this medicine had killed him, he falling, upon the use of it, into an incurable inflammation of the throat, &c.—*Goodall's Hist. Coll. Phys. p. 349, et seq.*

HÆMORRHOIDES.

The ark of the Lord being taken by the Philistines, his hand was heavy upon them, and he afflicted them with a painful malady in the *anus*; “in the most secret parts of their bodies, whence the excrements issue.” The interpreters are not, however, agreed concerning the proper meaning of the original word translated *anus*, nor concerning the nature of the disease of the Philistines. Some think it was hæmorrhoids, others dysentery, others fistula; in the 78th Psalm, the last meaning appears to be indicated; where it is said, “He smote his enemies in the hinder parts; he put them to a perpetual reproach.” The Philistines are also said to have made for themselves seats of skins, that they might sit more softly, on account of

their infirmity. Herodotus appears to have known something of this malady; but he has misunderstood it, and attributed it to a wrong cause. He says, that "the Scythians having plundered the temple of Ascalon, a celebrated city of the Philistines, the Goddess Derceto, otherwise Venus, who was there worshipped, struck them with a disgraceful malady, which became hereditary among their posterity." Be that as it may, their priests and diviners advised the Philistines, in order to avert this infirmity, to make five golden figures of the *anus*, and place them near or upon the ark, and send the whole back; which was accordingly done.

CURIOUS CASE, WITH SOME SINGULAR
REMARKS ON CANCER.

The wife of an officer in the French guards had long complained of a painful enlargement of one of her breasts, which was considered to be cancer. Excision was advised, but to this she would never submit. One day she experienced a severe shooting pain; and, at the same moment, her breast burst, and a spider of a monstrous size issued forth. The author of the *Journal Encyclopedique*, who relates this story, adds, that the Royal Academy of Sciences, and the Faculty of Medicine of Paris, are occupied in endeavouring to explain this

singular phenomenon. They have not yet discovered the cause of it, and they are likely to spend more time in the research than will ever be repaid by the result.

In the *Schola Salernitana*, the plant called *Chevrefeuille*, chervil, is said to be a cure for the cancer.

Oppositum cancris tritum cum melle medetur.

Doubtless, this is attributing more virtue to this herb than it ever did or ever will deserve. But the truth is, that we know no more of cancer than our predecessors. Every year, however, produces new pretenders to secrets, for the cure of this dreadful disease. Surgery may, indeed, remove the local malady; but, if the constitution be affected, the patient either dies from the operation, or the disease reappears in some other place, and inevitably destroys its subject.

If the above be founded in truth, what reason could there be for imputing ignorance to the surgeons of Ann of Austria, the mother of Louis XIV., because they could not cure her of a diseased gland of the breast, which degenerated into a cancer, of which she died three years after the first appearance of the disease? it is singular, that when her disease exhaled a most insupportable stench, when she might be

said to carry death in her bosom, she paid as much attention to her toilet as when in perfect health, although covered with disgusting plasters, and obliged to have the putrid portions daily removed by the knife. Amid the horrors of this situation, she observed, "others putrify after death, but I am condemned to do so while yet alive."

INFLUENCE OF DIET IN THE CURE OF DISEASES.

Physicians recommend an attention to diet, as one of the safest and most efficacious means of curing disease; they recommend attention to it even in health, and doubtless they are right. But do they not sometimes push the matter too far? Some have been known to reduce their patients to a state of incredible weakness, by almost interdicting nourishment, when that alone was required to re-establish their strength, and to dispell the remains of the disease by restoring contractility to the fibres and animation of the fluids. The same reproach may be made to the surgeons, who put their wounded patients upon the most severe diet, where the disease is local, and the stomach requires a certain degree of stimulus to promote digestion. Is it not certain that many wounded men perish by marasmus and consumption, because they are deprived of a due portion of nourish-

ment? Might not some examples be produced, were this a proper place?

We somewhere read an assertion of a physician, that, by means of diet, in six weeks he could convert a brave man into a poltroon. Prince Maurice, of Nassau, was so well convinced of the truth of this principle, that he always employed the English troops in some vigorous action, while, to use his own expression, they still had a piece of beef in their stomach.

Owen, the poet, has the following epigram respecting diet:—

Si tardi cupis esse, utaris oportet

Vel medico medicé, vel medico modicè :

Sumpta cibus tanquan lœdit medicina salutem ;

At sumptus prodest ut medicina cibus.

No people bear fasting better than the Gascons ; they accustom themselves to live on little, even when in health. A Gascon governor of a besieged place is said not to have surrendered till they had been absolutely without food for fifteen days.

One physician paid dearly for having permitted his patient to eat heartily during a temporary absence, in consequence of which he died. Alexander the Great, after having carried the terror of his arms to the banks of the Ganges, was returning victorious to the city of

Ecbatana, the capital of Media, when Hephestion, his dear friend, whom he loved nearly as well as himself, fell sick. He had an attack of fever, and was supposed to die in consequence of having imprudently indulged in too much food. The conqueror of Asia sent for his physician, Glaucus, who had treated the patient, reproached him for having occasioned the death of his friend by neglect, and afterwards caused him to be hanged.

VACCINATION ABROAD.

The practice of vaccination, although warmly opposed by a few professional men in London, the most eminent of whom were Dr. Moseley, Dr. Rowley, and Mr. Birch, was adopted with great zeal in the metropolis, and spread rapidly over every quarter of the globe. In France it was welcomed, by Napoleon, as the angel of health; in Germany it was supported by a host of able operators, at the head of whom was Dr. De Carro, of Vienna; in Italy it met with an advocate and promulgator of equal ability, Dr. Sacco, of Milan; and what was more remarkable, the King of Spain sent his physician, Dr. Balmis, on a voyage to South America, expressly for the purpose of diffusing this blessing. The medical men in the United States were almost unanimous in promoting vaccination;

and even in the East it overcame the prejudices of the Hindoos and Chinese. In Russia it was equally successful; and the mother of the present emperor, Alexander, was so delighted with the discovery, that she sent Dr. Jenner a very valuable diamond-ring, accompanied by a letter.

DELIRIUM.

Aretæus Cappadox relates the case of a blacksmith, who was perfectly sensible while employed in his shop and handling his tools; but if it became necessary for him to leave, on calls of business, he began to sigh and groan as soon as he quitted the instruments of his trade. On going abroad he hung his head; and, as soon as he lost sight of his shop, he became so completely delirious that he was obliged to be carried home by force, when the sight of his shop and his tools never failed to recal him to his senses.

The Greek christians, who are prone to every kind of superstition, consider the delirium of fever as a true possession of the devil; and when they perceive any one labouring under delirium, instead of administering the proper remedies, they send for the papas or priests, who, by abundance of prayers, and deluges of holy water, seriously exorcise the patient.

The husband of a young lady, who had mar-

ried a man advanced in life, (by whom she had no children) was attacked by fever; he became violently delirious, and incessantly demanded that his wife should come to bed to him. After repeated refusals, she was prevailed upon to lie down beside him, in hopes that her compliance might tend to calm his frenzy. The husband was no sooner sensible of the presence of his spouse, than he embraced her with transport. He died in the course of the day; but what is extraordinary, the lady found herself pregnant, and lay in precisely at the end of nine months. So that the last caresses of the husband seemed like the death of the phœnix, which is said to be reproduced from the midst of its ashes.

The *Ephemerides Germanicæ* contain the case of a man, who, in the delirium of malignant fever, opened his navel; and gradually drew forth, through the aperture, the whole of his intestines. When the attendants endeavoured to dissuade him, he begged they would not prevent him from drawing the worms out of his body. He had taken it into his head that his belly was a mine of worms. This shocking and peculiar delirium terminated, as may readily be supposed, in death. What tortures would not such an operation, performed upon a sane person, have occasioned.

DR. THOMPSON.

This gentleman was one of the many physicians, who, in this country, have enjoyed a short-lived reputation, acquired by methods unknown to any but themselves. The earliest of his practice was among men of eminence, Mr. Pope and others; who, deceived by his confidence, and a certain contempt with which he ever spoke of the rest of his profession, as being bigotted to theories and systems, looked upon him as a man of an inventive genius, who had reduced the art of healing to an epitome. The fact was, that, affecting to be a free-thinker in his faculty, he set at nought the discoveries and improvements of others, and treated with ridicule that practice which he did not understand. He was an everlasting prater on politics and criticism, and saw so deep into the councils of the King of Prussia, that he could assign the motives of all his actions, during the last war in which he was engaged. At taverns, in coffee-houses, at the cyder-cellar in Maiden-lane, he was frequently to be found holding forth on these subjects without interruption, in a tone of voice which, Mr. Garrick would say, was like the buzz of an humble-bee in a hall-window. This man enjoyed the favour of Lord Melcombe; and, what was of greater benefit to him, an

apartment in his house, with a protection from arrest, founded on the privilege which the law grants, not only to peers, but to the lowest of their menial servants.

Quin once told me a story of this person; he observed a man in a dark corner leaning his forehead on the table, and every now and then sending forth a sigh which seemed to come from his heart. Moved with compassion, he went up to him, and enquiring the cause of his grief, was told by him, that his name was Thompson; that he was a physician rising into practice, but that, for the want of fifty pounds, his chariot could not go abroad the next day, and his patients must remain unvisited. Quin bid him be comforted, and stepping to his lodgings in Bedford-street, returned with a bank-note for that sum, which he told Thompson he would not expect, till he was able to repay it. The other answered, that a month was as long as he wished to retain it; but Quin told him that he could spare it for three, or even for six months, and took his leave. Six months elapsed, and no apology made for non-payment of the money. Quin in a civil letter reminded Thompson of the terms on which it was lent; but receiving no answer to that and others that he wrote, he was obliged to send him one by his attorney, which produced a notification from the Duke of New-

castle's office, that the name of Dr. Thompson was there entered as a person privileged from arrests, and that it would be at Mr. Quin's peril if he proceeded to violate that protection which he claimed, and the law granted him. Being thus prohibited from the restraint of his person, Quin was obliged to wait the repayment of his money, which at the expiration of some months he received, but without the least acknowledgment of his kindness in lending it.

This was a man whom Whitehead, in the simplicity of his heart, held in such estimation, that he has been seen for hours together, listening with lips unclosed, to the torrents of nonsense he was pouring fourth. He addressed an epistle to him, wherein he celebrates his medical and moral qualities, and makes the number of persons daily restored by him to health, equal to those who were sent to their long homes by Wilmot, and other eminent physicians, his rivals and contemporaries.

Notwithstanding the advantages with which he set out, and the extravagant encomiums of him and his practice by Fielding and others, Thompson sunk into contempt and obscurity. Like Paracelsus, he performed a few cures, that neither himself nor any others were ever able to account for; and in a case of surgery he was once known, by dint of mere obstinacy, to have

saved a limb. A young gentleman, an officer, being on service in Germany, and at the head of a skirmishing party on horseback, received a wound with a sabre, that separated the tendons and ligaments which connect the foot with the leg. At a consultation on his case of two of the most eminent surgeons, Thompson, being the family physician, was called to assist, who, in opposition to their opinions that an amputation was inevitable, swore that his friend should not undergo it. The operation was deferred; and, by the help of the Malvern waters, the patient recovered such an use of the whole limb, as enabled him to walk with scarce any variation of his accustomed gait.

Boswell's Life of Johnson.

MEDICAL THESIS.

Charles Delorme, a physician of Paris, who died at Moulins, in 1678, at the age of 94 years, published, in 1608, a book, in quarto, entitled, "Laureæ Apollinares;" it is a collection of thesis, of which he is the author, and which, for the most part, treat on singular and interesting subjects. One among the rest examines, "Whether animals and fools can be cured by the same remedies?" and he concludes in the affirmative.

In 1736, at an assembly of the University of

Bologna, a Miss Laura Bussy, aged 32 years, and admitted of the faculty, pronounced a latin discourse, and argued afterwards, with the applause of an illustrious and numerous assembly, on anatomy, and, in particular, on ossification. The cardinal legate, the archbishop, the holy standard-bearer, the vice legate, &c. were present.

CHINESE PHYSICIANS.

Physicians in China never write prescriptions, but commonly administer their own medicines: a boy carrying after them a cabinet with five drawers, each divided into more than forty little squares, and all of them furnished with medicines ready prepared. When they have felt the pulse, they make up two compositions; one to be taken on the spot, the other afterwards. Their medicines are only simples; in the uses of which, and in the knowledge of the pulse, their whole art consists. Blood-letting is very rarely practised among them; and the use of clysters was not known till they learned it from the Portuguese at Macao, which they therefore call "the remedy of barbarians." The circulation of the blood is said to have been known to them from time immemorial; but, from their aversion to dissection, and their ignorance of anatomy, they have made no improvements.

The profession is chiefly handed down from father to son, though they have good ancient books of the art; extracts from which may be seen in Du Halde. Their fees are very moderate, but they never repeat their visits unless sent for; so that the patient is at liberty to change his physician.

THE BAILLIE FUND.

A striking instance of the zeal which Dr. Baillie felt for the promotion of medical knowledge, was afforded by the present which, in December, 1818, he made to the Royal College of Physicians of his extensive and valuable collection of anatomical preparations, together with the sum of 300*l.*, which he afterwards increased to 600*l.*, for the purpose of keeping them in order. It is remarkable that three individuals so closely connected—Dr. Hunter; his brother, Mr. John Hunter; and their nephew, Dr. Baillie—should each have left to his country a noble memorial of his science and patriotism. In the College of Glasgow may be seen the magnificent museum of Dr. Hunter: the College of Surgeons possesses the collection made by Mr. Hunter, which is more like the result of the labours of many individuals, successively enjoying royal patronage or national support, than that of the unaided efforts of a private

surgeon; and, lastly, Dr. Baillie gave to the College of Physicians at least a foundation for a museum of morbid anatomy. If the present should have the effect, which there can be no doubt Dr. Baillie expected, of exciting an increased attention from that learned body to anatomy, and especially to morbid anatomy, the profession, and society at large, will owe to him lasting obligations. The sense which the College of Physicians entertained at the time, of the value and importance of the donation, was expressed in the following resolution, with which the president and the other officers of the College waited upon Dr. Baillie, and presented it to him in person :—

“ RESOLVED,

“ That the thanks of the Royal College of Physicians be conveyed to Dr. Baillie, for the very extensive and valuable collection of anatomical preparations which he has presented to the College, and for his liberal donation to defray the expense of preserving the same; for which most useful and munificent present the College will ever hold Dr. Baillie in grateful and honorable remembrance.”

To the donation of 600*l.* the College of Physicians added 600*l.* more, for the same purpose; and this sum is called “ The Baillie Fund.”

He also bequeathed by his will three hundred pounds to the College of Physicians, and all his medical, surgical, and anatomical books, toge-

ther with all the copper-plates belonging to his "Illustrations of Morbid Anatomy," as well as a number of little curiosities, among which is the gold-headed cane of the celebrated Dr. Radcliffe. In case of the death of his son, William Hunter Baillie, without issue, he also left to the college a further bequest of four thousand pounds. He directed his two Introductory Lectures to his Courses of Morbid Anatomy, his Lectures upon the Nervous System, delivered before the College of Physicians, and a short Account of his Medical Practice, to be printed, but not published; remarking that, though not sufficiently important for publication, they may yet contain matter too useful to be altogether lost.

ANAGRAM RESOLVED.

Andrew Rudiger, a physician of Leipsic, when at college, made an anagram of his name in Latin: he found in Andreas Rudigerus exactly these words—" *arare rus Dei dignus*," that is to say, "worthy of cultivating the field of God." He immediately concluded that his vocation was for the church, and he began to study theology. In a short time after this rare discovery, he became preceptor to the children of Thomasius. This learned man told him one day, that he thought he would do better by

turning his attention to physic. Rudiger confessed himself to have more taste and inclination for that science; but, having regarded the anagram of his name as a divine invocation, he had not dared to neglect it. "How silly you are," said Thomasius, "the anagram of your name, in truth, calls you to physic.—*Rus Dei*, is not that the church-yard? and who cultivates it better than the physicians?" Rudiger could not resist this argument, and so turned physician.

EPITAPH ON DR. YOUNG,

Professor of Midwifery at Edinburgh.

ATTRIBUTED TO HENRY ERSKINE.

Hic jacet

Qui Venerem sine Lucinâ

Lucinam sine Venere

Coluit:

Filios post mille

Reipublicæ datos

Sine Liberis decessit;

Bella inter intestina

Forti manu

Sed sine Marte,

Patriæ Liberatoris nomen

Adeptus est.

Anno æt. 57, jam juvenem,

Decessisse.

Abi, Viator, et luge.

TRANSLATION.

Here lies
 A most extraordinary man:
 He saved the lives of thousands,
 Though he was a physician;
 And took the greatest liberties with the chastest
 matrons without offending themselves;
 Or,
 What is more surprising,
 Their husbands.
 Mothers and Daughters wept his death;
 The former from gratitude,
 The latter from expectation:
 He died, alas! of an apoplexy.
 Cupid!
 You gave him no assistance;
 And, by the omission, proved yourself
 A God, as ungrateful as blind:
 For this great man's life was spent
 in preventing
 Love's labour from being lost.

THE SAME, IN FRENCH.

Cy git, un homme a mainte femme,
 Qui tata souvent pas le poulx,
 Et bon repos soit a son ame,
 N'a fait acun mari jaloux,
 Un coup si rude, et si severe,
 Faite tout le beaux sex gemir,
 En peusent au passé, la mere,
 Et la Poucelle a l'avenir.

CASE OF EXTIRPATION OF THE PAROTID
GLAND.

On account of the singularity of this case, and the unfrequency of the operation which was performed in it, we are inclined to lay the following particulars before our readers.

“ L. F. Clout, a paper-stainer, was admitted into the Hospital ‘ *La Pitié*’ on the 19th of August, 1823, on account of a scirrhus ulceration of the right parotid gland. This man was aged forty-seven years, of an apparently good constitution, and of a sanguineo-nervous temperament. The disease had commenced eight years before; but, from being long indolent, and comparatively small, it had rapidly increased, and become the seat of lancinating pains; it had also lost its mobility. On admission into the hospital, this cancerous tumour possessed a very considerable elevation. At its superior margin it raised the lobe of the ear, and appeared to involve the cartilaginous portion of the auditory canal. It extended downwards more than an inch from the angle of the jaw; backwards it adhered to the sterno-mastoid muscle, and its anterior portion covered a great portion of the masseter. It was ulcerated in two situations, and had but little motion. There was no appearance of cancerous cachexia. The patient desired an operation, and M. Béclard, of the hospital La Pitié, performed it very skilfully.

“ The extirpated tumour presented a scirrhus texture, mixed with a small portion of tuberculous matter. It was impossible to distinguish the structure proper to the gland itself.

“ Three months after the operation, the wound was closed, unless near the ear, where it had assumed a character denoting a return of the cancer. The patient was still

maniacal, and seemed affected with a chronic inflammation of the membranes of the brain. He died three months and three weeks after the operation.

“ On dissection, the external carotid artery was observed to terminate in cellular tissue resulting from the cicatrization of the wound. There appeared no vestige of the parotid. The internal jugular vein was obliterated at the same height, and seemed to commence lower down by communicating with the superficial branches. The correspondent lateral sinus was not obliterated. Some pus was found in the meatus auditorius externus. The membrane of the tympanum was sound. There was a marked injection of the pia mater, and of the choroid plexus. A serosity was found in the ventricles, suspending particles similar to those deposited by some red comes.—*Archives Générales*, Jan. 1824.

BORDE'S ACCOUNT OF ALE, &c.

“ Natural ale, which is drink for an Englishman, is, that it is made of malt and water, and yest, barme, or godsgood; and they who put any thing more into it, sophisticate it. This should not be drunk under five days old.”

Beer, he tells us, is made of malt, hops, and water; “ and is natural drink for a Dutchman, and of late is much used in England, to the detriment of many Englishmen.”

Speaking of wylde beastes' fleshe, he says, “ I have gone rounde about Chrystendome, and overthwarte Chrystendome, and a thousand or two myles out of Chrystendome, yet there is not so much pleasure for harte and hynde,

bucke and doe, and for roebucke and doe, as in Englande; and although the fleshe be disprayed in physicke, I praye God to send me part of the flesh to eat, physicke notwithstanding."

Under the heads of roots, herbs, and fruits, he mentions most of those in common use at this day, notwithstanding the prevailing notion of the low state of gardening among us at that period.* The title of the book, which, it would appear, was drawn up at Montpellier, renders indeed his evidence somewhat doubtful; though it sufficiently appears, from the contents, to have been in general designed for the particular use of his countrymen. As potatoes are not mentioned among the articles of vegetable diet, in all probability they were but just then introduced, and not commonly known.

Andrew Borde was as much remarkable for the versatility of his talent as for the eccentricity of his character. He possessed, it would appear, the *ne plus ultra* of the *cacoethes scribendi*,

* Sir Thomas Eylot, in his "Castle of Health," enumerates the same. Surely Queen Katharine need not have sent to Holland for a salad, when lettuce, endive, succory, beet, sorrel, and onion grew in England. It is true, she came over much earlier than the time these authors wrote, but these articles are mentioned as quite common and of familiar use.

invita Minerva. He is said to have written a Book of Prognostics; and another of Urines. But the most singular circumstance, for a man of his character, is his being the publisher of a famous jest-book, called, "The merry Tales of the Mad Men of Gotham;" and likewise of "The History of the Miller of Abingdon and the Cambridge scholars," the same with that related by Chaucer in his Canterbury Tales. These publications, certainly, agree better with the Bishop's account of his conduct, than with his Carthusian mortifications: his fame, in this department, has survived that in the medical art, and the appellation of 'Merry-Andrew' still recalls the remembrance of this author, and will continue to do so as long as the poor shall be allowed to have the amusement of a fair and its accompanying shows.

He left behind him, in manuscript, a kind of Tour of Europe, giving the distances, from place to place, and describing the most remarkable objects on the road.

EDWARD WOTTON, M. D.

Was born at Oxford, in the year 1492, and educated at the school near Magdalen College. He was incorporated doctor of physic, towards the latter end of 1525. He became eminent in his profession about Oxford, and

afterwards in London; was chosen a member of the London College of Physicians, and subsequently, physician to Henry VIII. He died Oct. 5, 1555, and was buried in St. Alban's church-yard, London.

Dr. Wotton rendered himself eminent by a book on natural history, entitled "*De Differentiis Animalibus*," lib. x. printed at Paris, 1552. He appears to have been the first of our English physicians, who particularly devoted himself to this branch of study.

The learned Gessner, in the preface to his "*Historia Avium*," has given the following encomiastic opinion of the above work:—

"Edoardus Wotton, Anglus, Nuper de animalium differentiis libros decem edidit; in quibus, etiamsi suarum observationum quod ad historiam nihil adferat, neque novi aliquid doceat, laude tamen et lectione dignus est, quod pleraque veterum de animalibus scripta ita digesserit, ac inter se conciliarit, ut ab uno fere authore profecta videantur omnia; stylo satis æquabili et puro—scholiis etiam ac emendationibus utilissimis adjectis, et quod priusquam ad explicandas singulorum naturas accederet, quæ communia et in genere dici poterant, doctissime exposuerit."

This account, although made out by a friendly hand, is not materially different from the less favourable sentence of Haller, who says of the work:—"Ab eruditione magis, quam ab ipsarum cognitione commendatur."—*Boerh. Meth.*

Stud. Med.—and, “Sine ordine omnia, fere collectitia ex veteribus, et etiam potissimum ex Aristotele.”—*Biblioth. Med.*

JENNER'S PUBLIC REWARD.

Dr. Jenner had bestowed on his country and on the world so inestimable a good, that nothing approaching its value could be returned. It was evident, that to him mankind must for ever remain insolvent. Yet, to obtain even a compensation for the expenses which he had incurred, it was indispensable that he should present to the House of Commons a petition, couched in certain prescribed terms of solicitation. On the 17th of March, 1802, Dr. Jenner's petition was presented. The prime-minister favoured the application with every requisite official aid. He communicated to the house, that he had taken the king's pleasure upon the contents of the petition, and that his majesty recommended it strongly to the consideration of Parliament. The business was then referred to a committee, of which Admiral Berkeley was appointed chairman.

After a very patient investigation and deliberation, the committee drew up a report, expressed in as favourable terms towards Dr. Jenner as the caution and formality of parliamentary language would permit; which was

presented to the house on the 6th of May, 1802. On the 2d of June, the house having formed itself into a committee of supply, the subject was taken into consideration.

Admiral Berkeley dwelt on the clearness of the proofs which had been adduced of the great importance of vaccination, and, while he allowed that the sum was insufficient, and that he would support any proposition that might be made for substituting one of larger amount, moved that 10,000*l.* should be granted by parliament to Dr. Jenner.

Sir Henry Mildmay thought the sum proposed by no means adequate. The conduct of Dr. Jenner had, in his opinion, been most liberal. There was ample testimony that if he had locked up the secret in his own breast he might easily have realised 100,000*l.* He moved as an amendment to make the grant 20,000*l.*

The house then divided upon the original motion for granting 10,000*l.*; which was carried by the small majority of three; all those who approved of the amendment, voting of course in the minority.

In 1806, when Lord Henry Petty (now Marquis of Lansdown) became Chancellor of the Exchequer, he determined to bring the subject of vaccination again before the House of Commons. After a short conversation, in which

Mr. Mathew, Mr. Wilberforce, Mr. Windham, Mr. Barker, Mr. W. Smith, and Mr. Paul participated, and which turned principally on the best mode of accomplishing the object in view, Lord Henry Petty's motion was agreed to, without one dissenting voice.

On the 29th of July, 1807, the House of Commons being in a committee of supply, the Right Hon. Spencer Perceval, Chancellor of the Exchequer, called the attention of the Committee to the report of the College of Physicians, and to the immense advantages of vaccination which that report developed. Were they to proportion the reward to the value of the discovery, he knew not where they ought to stop; but convinced as he was that the committee would regard his proposal as an act of justice rather than of liberality, he would move that there should be granted to Dr. Jenner, as a reward for his matchless discovery, an additional sum of 10,000*l*.

The motion was opposed by Mr. Shaw Lefevre, and supported by Lord Henry Petty, General Tarleton, Mr. Sturges Bourne, and Mr. Hawkins Browne.—Mr. Edward Morris moved as an amendment, to grant Dr. Jenner 20,000*l*. instead of 10,000*l*., to mark the sense which Parliament entertained of his merits, and to place him in a state of independence.

Mr. Whitbread, Mr. Fuller, Mr. Baring, Admiral Pole, and Mr. George Rose, junior, all spoke in favour of the amendment. At length the house divided upon the question that 20,000*l.* should be granted to Dr. Jenner; sixty votes were in favour of that sum, and forty-seven against it. Thus the amendment was carried by a majority of thirteen.

APOTHECARIES' ACT.

It is not a little amusing to see how the scale of liberality, as to an introduction into the three medical corporations of London, gradually contracts as it descends.

The physicians, who are supposed to be the highest in rank, require only a certificate of two years' residence at a regularly-constituted university, in any country whatever, before the party takes his degree therein; and three examinations carried on in the learned language of Europe.

The surgeons, a degree lower, require a certificate of five years' previous attention to the study, a twelvemonth's attendance upon the London hospitals and lecturers, that is to say, in other words, the expenditure of about one hundred guineas amongst the principals of the college; and an examination in the vulgar tongue.

The apothecaries, still lower in rank, now require five years' apprenticeship, that is to say, a good premium and five years' service to one of the fraternity, six months' attendance upon the London hospitals and lecturers, and an examination in the vulgar tongue, not only in pharmacy, but, according to the construction which they put upon the act, in medicine, anatomy, and botany.

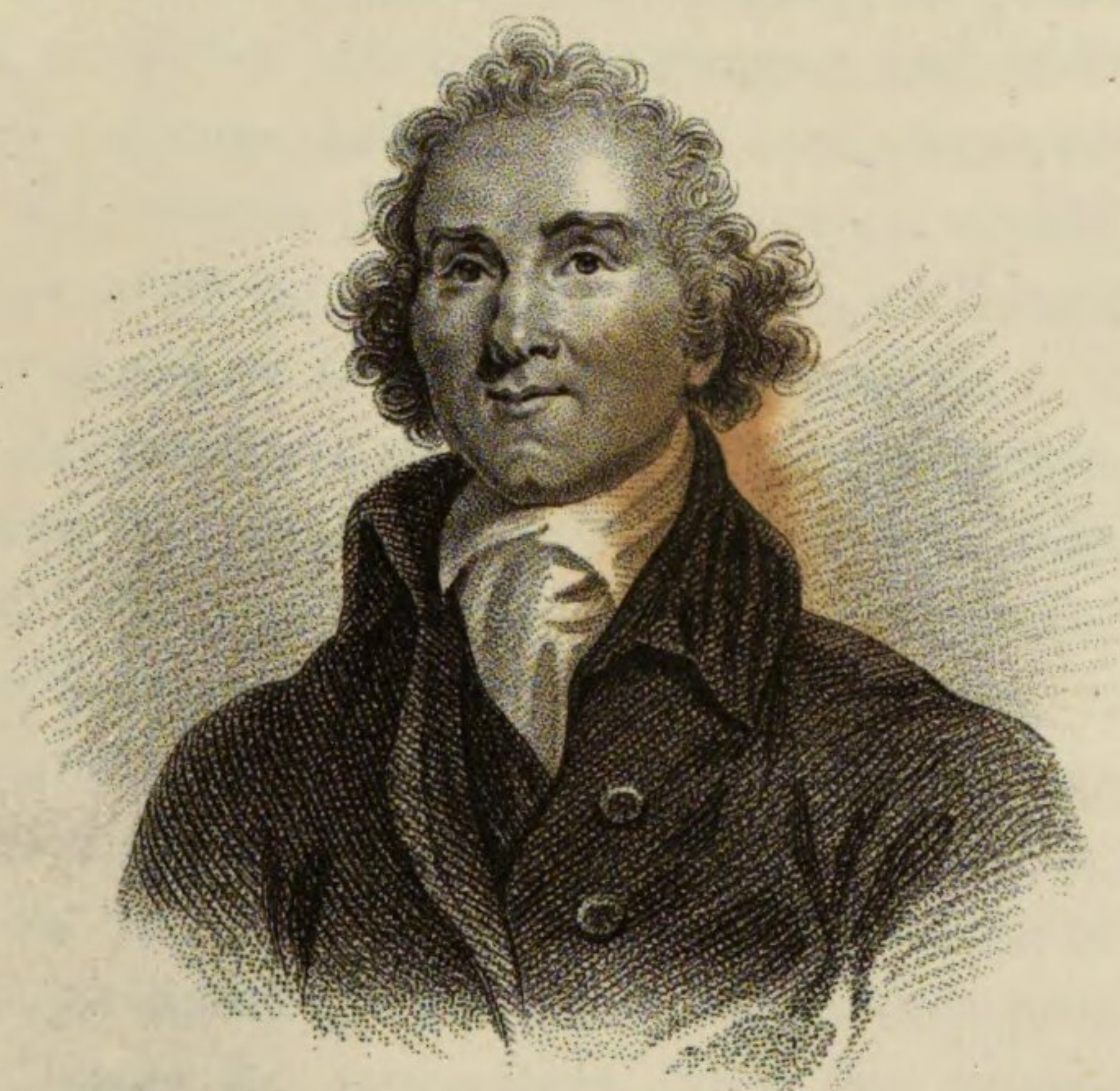
Surely it might have been left to the convenience of the party, either to serve an apprenticeship like other tradesmen, or to qualify himself for practice by an attendance upon the London hospitals and lecturers for some certain period, until he might be supposed, with moderate attention, to have acquired a portion of knowledge equal to what is usually acquired by an apprenticeship.

How distressing must it be, when a person, having served an apprenticeship in the country, has an opportunity, by the death of his master, just at the expiration of his term of servitude, to succeed him; yet he is now obliged to come up to London, for at least six, or perhaps ten months, to render himself legally qualified to succeed him; and, in the mean time, a stranger settles in the place, and takes away a considerable portion of that business which the party

had always looked up to as his own, and paid a considerable premium in order to obtain.—S.

JOHN HUNTER'S DOCTRINES.

Like every other teacher who is master of his subject, John Hunter began with the most simple forms appertaining to his science. So far from resorting to the organic *molecules* of the French philosopher, he conceived that life may exist without organization, or without any that can be discovered. This he illustrated by the property of the unimpregnated part of an egg, which has a power of self-preservation; that such power arises from life, he proves by killing it; after which it becomes putrid as soon as any other animal substance, exposed to the same degree of heat. This leads him to the vitality of the blood, a proposition we should conceive hardly doubtful, nor ever questioned, till Mr. Hunter shewed the necessity of closely watching all its actions; demonstrating that they exist only during life; and that, in every healthy process, they are directed to purposes the most important to the health and growth of the animal. This fluid, like the solid parts of the living body, being only affected by stimuli and sympathy, the effects of each in every part, and under every condition of health and disease,



W. Read, Sc.

MR. JOHN HUNTER.

were traced with the minutest accuracy. This led to the subject of inflammation, the foundation of all pathology. Happily all this, with various accidents under which it occurs, as applicable to the pathology of surgery, is given to the world in his own language; and if it requires patience and application to understand it, this only proves that, after anatomy, it should make the early part of medical study, as Euclid and Locke are of a more general education.

His lectures were much more comprehensive, containing the whole of practical surgery, with as much of physiology as was necessary for comprehending the science, and connecting it with the rules of the art. Symptoms and prognosis were minutely dwelt upon, and sympathy, in all its varieties. After the consideration of every local disease, or accident, the various provisions made for restoration, and the consequence when these prove insufficient, with the means of relief by art, were pointed out by the relation of cases, the demonstration of preparations, and the fairest inductions from the established laws of economy. Having traced local diseases, in all the variously-formed parts, from the generally-fluid blood to soft but solid parts, and to the bones, their effects on the whole system was next described. To these succeeded diseases, which, from certain pecu-

liarities, were called specific, particularly those confounded under the general term of cancer, the morbid poisons, and diseases of the skin. It should be remembered, that in all his lectures, he never professed to introduce comparative anatomy, excepting to illustrate some disease in the human subject.

Adams's Life of John Hunter.

PHYSICIANS AND THEIR CARRIAGES.

In 1670, it appears, that in England it was then becoming customary for physicians to make their visits in a carriage, and that they then began to expect a double fee, viz. two angels,* “For,” says the author of ‘*Lex Talionis*,’ “there must now be a little coach and two horses; and, being thus attended, half a piece, their usual fee, is but ill-taken, and popped into their left pocket, and, possibly, may cause the patient to send for his worship twice before he will come again to the hazard of another angel.”

Before this, physicians of much practice used to visit their patients on horseback, riding, how-

* The angel of gold was an ancient gold-coin, of the value of ten shillings; so that, after having been driven from circulation by the half-guinea, it has lately been revived under the denomination of a half-sovereign.

ever, sideways, on foot-cloths, like females. Dr. Simeon Fox and Dr. Argent are said to have been the last presidents of the College who visited their patients in this manner.

HISTORY OF MEDICAL SCIENCE IN DENMARK.

Fixing the term of his historical researches at the end of the reign of Frederick II. in 1588, Professor J. D. Herbolt, in his *Archives for Lægivendenskabens Historie I. Danmark*, has divided his subject into seven parts, namely, —1. General history of medicine in Denmark; —2. Studies of this science at the University of Copenhagen;—3. Medical employments;—4. History and studies of surgery;—5. Pharmacy;—6. Medical institutions and sanitary police;—lastly, 7. Medical literature—a memoir, as an apology for the history of medicine, in the north of Europe, by Professor P. E. Müller, is placed at the head of the above curious work. Not much relative to medicine is to be learned from it, but many interesting facts are related; for instance, that at that early period the kings of the north touched for the evil, as was also done some centuries after by the Kings of England and France. There is still extant a peculiar treatise by J. Gislesen, on the ancient medicine of the north, under the title of “*Testamen Histor. de Medicina veterum septen-*

trionalium," partes 4, 1779—82. M. Herbolt dates the origin of the study of medicine in Denmark as posterior to the reformation of religion, when the quarrels of divines, having subsided, gave to the literati and to governments an opportunity of fixing their attention upon objects of more direct utility. It is since the kings were named Christian, that royal physicians began to be recognised. The physician of Christian III., Jacques Bonding, has left a report remarkable for the time, that is, for the middle of the sixteenth century. The title of *city-physician* (*stadphysicus*) in Copenhagen was only known at Copenhagen in the 17th century. The barbers in Denmark, as in other states, were the first surgeons; their Danish name, *badskere*, may probably be derived from *bad*, a bath; so that the bath-keepers might also have been the first to practice surgery. In contagious diseases, which at that time were but too frequent, they enforced the police upon the sick; and, in time of war, they accompanied the armies as surgeons by land and sea. M. Herbolt has published the statutes of the corporation of the master-barbers of Copenhagen; dated 1577. This establishment, however, was not continued. Again, in 1546, there was only one pharmacy in all Denmark and Norway; and South Jutland had one only in 1577. The

first royal ordonnance, relative to the hospitals, dated 1537, forms part of an ecclesiastical regulation. On these subjects Bartholin's work, "*De Medicina Danorum*," may be consulted. A bibliographical notice of the works relating to medicine published since 1478, and carried up to 1588, closes this treatise. For this part the author might have availed himself of a work, by Mangor, printed in a Danish periodical collection, under the title of "*Bibliotheca Danorum Medica*."

DIGESTION.

Messrs. Desbarreaux and Delben dining together one day, the first presented the other with a dish, which he apologized for refusing, because he found it was difficult of digestion. "You are then," said M. Desbarreaux to him, "one of those fools who amuse themselves with digesting."

M. Astruc published, in 1714, a tract, in octavo, upon digestion; in which he refutes the theory of trituration, and proposes another, which was controverted by Hercquet and Pitcairn. The latter, speaking of Astruc, uses the following polite expression:—" *Credo Astruccium nunquam cacasse*."

A parasite, on leaving a table where he had partaken of a good dinner, spoke very disre-

spectfully of his entertainer. He might, at least, have waited till digestion was finished, said some one. This was probably the same person of whom it was observed, that he never *opened his mouth* but at the expence of another.

WATER DRINKING.

Dr. William Lambe stated, in a work he published, called "An Enquiry into the Origin, Symptoms, and Cure of Constitutional Diseases," that the drinking of the lambent stream, vulgarly called water, was the sole cause of man not arriving at any decent state of longevity. The deleterious matter with which pure water is accompanied, he designates by the name of the septic poison, which, resembling *arsenicated manganese*, being taken into the body, acts in this dreadful manner: "Is not (he says) this the very demon, which, for so many ages, has tortured mankind; and which, usurping the sensorium, has corrupted, under a thousand forms, both the mind and body? the evil spirit which has augmented the wants of man, while it has diminished his enjoyments? which has exasperated the passions, inflamed the appetites, benumbed the senses, and enfeebled the understanding? which has converted his fine form into a storehouse of diseases; has blasted the flower of his offspring, and has brought

even the strongest of his name to an untimely grave?" This is a war upon water, and the mode he proposes to rectify the inconvenience of being short-lived, is to have all water distilled. The dropsy of punch-drinkers he attributes to the water, and not to the alcohol; the beauty of those Lancashire and Irish women, whose complexions are the indexes of health, he attributes to the potatoes and buttermilk.

MEDICAL ZEAL.

Those to whom this subject is new, may form some notion of the ardent zeal of some votaries of medical science, and may be entertained, as well as instructed, when they are informed, that many of them have long persisted in trying severe and dangerous experiments on their own persons: that one of them, wishing to ascertain the medicinal effects of camphor, took at one dose such a quantity of it, that his senses failed him, and he was nearly killed, and must have died, but for the lucky accident of the physician, who was called to his assistance when speechless, casting his eyes on the table, and which contained an account of the experiments that he had been trying: another example is that of a most eminent surgeon, and ingenious man, who deliberately inoculated himself, by means of a lancet dipt in the venereal virus, and kept

himself thoroughly tainted with that loathsome distemper for about three years, that he might have the satisfaction of observing the regular progress of it through every part of his body.

Another very ingenious man of the profession, in order to ascertain the effects of different kinds of food on the human body, lived for more than two months on bread and water; then for some time on roast goose; then on suet; then on sugar; and at last fairly died upon Cheshire cheese. But hundreds or thousands of experiments, more or less severe or dangerous, have been tried by physicians and surgeons on their own bodies, without the least necessity, and purely for their zeal for science.

To such experiments, I presume, no reasonable objection can be made. If those who make them choose to go out of the world in this manner, I doubt whether any body has a right, and surely nobody can have any inclination, to stop them. But it is not so clear to me, that they have a right to send their patients out of the world; these have no such zeal for science, no ambition for that crown of martyrdom.

It will naturally, and very justly be taken for granted, that some, at least, of our faculty, who are so ready to try experiments on their own bodies, would be apt, when an opportunity

offered, to try similar experiments on their patients. It is a melancholy truth, but it cannot be denied; all that I can say for the honour of my professional brethren is, that the most respectable of them have always reprobated such conduct as severely as the rest of mankind do. Our medical phrase of contempt for it, *corio humano ludere* (to play with the human hide), abundantly testifies in what abomination it has generally been held by our faculty; and it is needless to enter into particulars. But to show what I mean, I shall mention one instance, which may, perhaps, startle some men of weak nerves, who are little used to such things: some of the medical profession, out of pure love of science, and without the least necessity, have taken small-pox matter from the dead body of one who died of the worst kind of disease, and have inoculated with it. A dead body, half putrid, has been dug out of the grave, where it had lain some days, and small-pox matter has been taken from it for the same purpose.—*Gregory's Med. Essays.*

THICK SCULLS.

Oviedo, in his General History of the Indies, observes, “that Indian sculls are four times as thick as other men’s; so that coming to handy strokes with them, it shall be requisite

not to strike them on the head with swords, for many have been broken on their heads with little hurt done." Dr. Bulmer observes, from Purchas, "that blockheads and loggerheads are in request in Brazil, and helmets are of little use, every one having a natural murion of his head: for as to the Brazilians' heads, some of them are as hard as the wood that grows in the country, that they cannot be broken." Stowe, in his Survey of London, speaks of the scull of a man above three-quarters of an inch thick, found at St. Catherine's Cree church.

THE HALL AT LEYDEN.

In the Anatomy-hall of Leyden is a drinking-cup of the scull of a Moor, killed in the beleaguering of Haarlem. Also a cup made of a double brain-pan. We observe, also, that No. 51 is the skin of a woman, and No. 52 the skin of a woman, prepared like leather; No. 53 the skin of a Malacca woman, above 150 years old, presented by Richard Snolk, who probably had her flead.

Wanley has an account of an Italian, Nicholas Ricardius, whose scull was so solid that he used to crack his nuts with it; aye, even peach-stones. Bartholinus makes mention of another, who was able to let a coach-wheel pass over without the least damage. Purchas, in his Pil-

grimace, says the Thebean Tartars make drinking-cups of the skulls of their fathers.

A FRENCHMAN'S OPINION OF FRENCH
SURGERY.

Voltaire, after having spoken, in his age of Louis XIV. of all the sciences and of all the arts which distinguish this ever-memorable reign, says, "Let us not pass over in silence the most useful of all arts, that in which the French surpass all nations in the world—I mean surgery, of which the progress was so rapid, and so celebrated in this age, that people came to Paris from the extremities of Europe, for all those cures and operations which required more than usual dexterity; not solely," adds he, "were there excellent surgeons in France only, but it was even in this country alone, that the instruments necessary to this science were perfectly manufactured. This country furnished all its neighbours with them; and I learn, from the celebrated Cheseldon, that he, for the first time, in 1715, caused to be manufactured the instruments of his art." It is, however, a fact, that in 1725 the principal surgeons of London were Frenchmen; at least, so M. Rouquet affirms, in a book, entitled, '*État des Arts en Angleterre*,' page 227. The establishment of the Royal Academy of Surgery, and the labours

of its members, have carried surgery to a degree of perfection which one could hardly have dared to conjecture.

Les Recherches sur l'Origine des Découvertes attribuée aux Modernes, contain an extract of a memoir of M. Barnard, first physician to King ————, on the surgery of the ancients, in which the author pretends that the merit of modern surgeons consists more in having revived the discoveries of the ancients, and in having placed them in a better point of view, than in having really made new ones. The author examines one by one all the operations that are now practised, and attempts to prove, that they were almost all known to the ancients, and that there are some with which we are unacquainted; and concludes, that modern surgeons are only superior in having invented a number of different instruments for the same operations; in having made some amendments to the different methods of operating adopted by the ancients, and in having corrected some of them.

Matters are now altered, as it is generally allowed that the most expert and celebrated surgeons exist in Great Britain; where, doubtless, also, the best instruments of their art are at present manufactured.

ANCIENT PHYSIC AND PHARMACY.

The Greek and Roman physicians prepared their own medicines, and these consisted chiefly of simples; but there is reason to suppose, that the collection and sale of medical plants, at a very early period, was considered as a distinct occupation. The same herbs were, besides, employed for culinary purposes; some in the composition of cosmetics and ointment; others in the formation of painters' colours, dye stuffs, and indeed, for the general service of the arts and manufactures; and being, consequently, sought for by all classes, were retailed by persons who were not medical practitioners. We find, indeed, that this trade was so extensive as to require its division into separate branches, and the dealers of each were distinguished by different appellations. Of these, the *pigmentarii* seem to have dispensed cosmetics and drugs for the use of man; while those herbs that were employed in the diseases of cattle were only to be obtained from the *seplasiarii*; and the *pharmacopolæ* and *medicamentarii* appear to have sold medicines already compounded, which, from the manner in which they are mentioned, were probably viewed as mere nostrums. The business of these dealers bore, therefore, but a slight resemblance to that

of a modern apothecary; and as every kind of warehouse or shop was denominated *apotheca*, so the proprietor, whatever might be his avocation, was called *apothecarius*. We, therefore, erroneously refer these terms, when they occur in ancient authors, to the profession of an apothecary; and, even in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, those who prepared confectionary and conserves for the table, were named apothecaries. The electuaries, syrups, and other medicines commonly in use at that period, were indeed usually called confections; and there is a decree of the emperor Frederick II., containing regulations for the practice of physic in the kingdom of Naples, in which it is enjoined, that fresh and sufficient drugs should be kept and compounded according to the prescriptions of the physicians, by the *confectionarii*. But although this would seem to imply that physicians prescribed the preparation of the medicines for the particular case which they were consulted, it in fact appears, that they merely selected them from some established collection of receipts, and that they were kept by the venders in a prepared state.

The period when physicians began to resign the preparation of their receipts wholly to apothecaries, is involved in obscurity; it has

been supposed that the custom originated in Africa, so early as the time of Avenzoar, in the eleventh century; if that conjecture be correct, it would follow, that the practice must have been introduced by the Arabian physicians into Spain, and the lower part of Italy, and indeed, wherever the possessions of the Moors and Saracens extended. This would also account for the number of Arabic terms of art that are still used in pharmacy and chemistry: for, although the practice of physic, in christian countries, was confined, during the gloom of the middle ages, to the monasteries, yet the monks acquired their chief knowledge from the east; and the celebrated Constantine Afer, who, in the year 1086, was an inmate of the Benedictine Convent on Mount Casino, near Salerno, and is known to have rendered the most essential assistance to the school of medicine in that city, was himself a native of Carthage.

Mention is made, in the records of Augs-burgh, of one Suitfred Apotheker, as a resident there in the year 1285, and Hans Apotheker was city chamberlain in 1317; the same name also occurs in the early annals of other German towns, and it has been thence inferred, that if these persons were not actually apothecaries themselves, they had derived the appellation from some one of their family who had followed

that occupation; but there is no positive account of the exercise of the profession in Germany, until about the commencement of the fifteenth century, when they were established, at the public expence, in several of the principal cities. These apothecaries were exempted from all parochial duties, and furnished with a house and a certain annual quantity of wine and corn, for which they were, in some instances, bound to supply the magistrates with a specified portion of confectionary at their public meetings. That they also dispensed the ordinary medicines to the public, gratis, either in consideration of their salary, or at the expence of the state, appears from an ordinance among the police regulations framed in the city of Basle, in the year 1440, by which it was decreed, that a physician should be established in every imperial city, with the allowance of an ecclesiastical benefice, in order that he might give advice without a fee; and that "such *costly* articles as persons might choose to have from the apothecary's shop, they should pay for." These shops, however, were so rare, even at a later period, that the city of Berlin did not contain one until the year 1488; when the magistrates granted to one Hans Zekender the hereditary right to practice pharmacy there, together with the privileges and allowances

already mentioned, and an engagement *that no other apothecary should be allowed to reside in the city*. Hanover was not possessed of this convenience until 1560, nor the court of Dresden until 1581; and it is remarkable that both these were established and supported by females; the first by the reigning duchess, the other by the electress Ann. A knowledge of medicine formed, indeed, a part of the accomplishments of ladies in the early ages; and we find that, in 1485, the public apothecary at Augsburgh was a woman.

There is no account of apothecaries in France before the year 1484; in Sweden until 1550; nor in Russia until the latter end of the same century: but in England we find it mentioned in the *Fœdera*, that in the year 1345, King Edward III. allowed a pension of sixpence per day to Coursus de Gangleland, an apothecary of London, for his attendance on his majesty during his illness in Scotland. In the year 1606, the apothecaries of the City of London were incorporated with the grocers; but were instituted a separate company in 1617.

The first dispensatory is generally supposed to have been compiled by Valerius Cordus; or, at least, that he first designated a collection of medicinal receipts by the name of *dispensatorium*.



CIRCULATION OF THE BLOOD.

Is it certain that the ancients considered the arteries to be conductors merely of the animal spirits?—How does the following passage quadrate with this opinion?

“Hæ arteriæ vero oblonga sunt vasa velut venæ, et duas tunicas habent, tum propter relatum motum, tum quod sanguinem et spiritum continent, et enascuntur ex corde, et disperguntur per omnes corporis partes.”*

Paulus Ægineta de Pulsibus, cap. XII.

LONGEVITY.

Plempius, in his work “*Fundamentum Medicinæ, Louvain, 1665,*” maintains that persons arrived at a very great age *may*, in the usual course of things, naturally renew their youth. He illustrates his position by an anecdote of an Indian gentleman, who lived 310 years, and who grew young again three times! Plempius gives many other plumpers equally authentic and credible.

Dr. Hufeland, a German physician, with no less extravagance, says, “It is possible to live in our days to as great an age as man-

* But these arteries are oblong vessels like the veins, and have two coats, as well for their relative motion, as that they may contain the blood and spirit; and they arise from the heart, and are dispersed through all parts of the body.

kind did at the time of Abraham, and even at a more remote period. There have undoubtedly been times, at which men, in the same country, have attained to a greater or less age. But that nation which should return through a revolution to a less civilized state, and approach nearer to that of nature, would be most likely to arrive, like the people of the early ages, at the real term of life." Hufeland elsewhere asserts, "that human life may be extended to two hundred years; and that it is possible for man, in some sort, to grow young again."

WHITE POPPY WATER.

In Miss Hatfield's "*Terra Incognita of Lincolnshire*," published in 1816, where the fair authoress describes a walk to Wintringham, she makes the following observations:—

"Through the whole of this excursion, I was particularly attracted by the almost general cultivation of the white poppy, with which every cottage-garden is adorned. Anxious to know the motive for an appearance so remarkable, on inquiring I was not a little surprised to find that this stately flower was raised for the purpose of distillation; that the villagers had frequent recourse to its Lethean juices, as an inducer to stupefaction, the worst species of intoxication. That the suffering patient, sleepless and ago-

nized with pain, should fly to the use of opiates; that the Turk, to whom wine is religiously prohibited, should seek a temporary gratification in the delirium they produce, does not surprise us; but that the simple healthy peasantry of Lincolnshire, who suffer no prohibitions, who live in greater plenty than those of any other county in the kingdom, should seek this deleterious enjoyment, greatly surprised me."—s.

QUESTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED PREVIOUS TO
GOING APPRENTICE TO AN APOTHECARY.

Can you bear the thoughts of being obliged to get up out of your warm bed, in a cold winter's night, or rather morning, to make up medicines which your employer, just arrived from attending a labour, through frost and snow, prescribes for a lady just put to bed, or a patient taken suddenly or dangerously ill? or, supposing that your master is not yet in sufficient business to keep a boy, to take out the medicines, can you make up your mind to think it no hardship to take them to the patient after you have made them up?

Are you too fine a gentleman to think of contaminating your fingers by administering a clyster to a poor man, or a rich one, or a child dangerously ill, when no nurse can be found that knows any thing of the matter? This is a part.

of your profession that it is as necessary for you to know how to perform, as it is to bleed or dress a wound; or are your olfactory nerves so delicate, that you cannot avoid turning sick when dressing an old neglected ulcer; or when, in removing dressings, your nose is assailed with the effluvia from a carious bone? If you cannot bear these things, put surgery out of your head, and go and be apprenticed to a man-milliner or perfumer.

Chamberlaine's Tyrocinium Medicum.

DR. RATCLIFFE.

The waters of Alstrop, near Brackley, in Northamptonshire, were, in his time, in fashion, and were strongly recommended by Drs. Willis and Lower.

Unfortunately, on Dr. Ratcliffe spending some time at these Wells, a woman of the village becoming pregnant, and, being called before the parish-officers, to filiate the child, laid it upon Dr. Ratcliffe, who was highly indignant at the charge, and declared, that if they charged him with the maintenance, he would put a toad in their well. The officers were inexorable, but the doctor coming into very great practice, so cried down the Alstrop waters, that they entirely lost their reputation. Otherwise, Alstrop would have been what Cheltenham is at present.—s.

SINGULAR CASE OF HOMICIDE.

(Involving an important medico legal question.)

Claudius Noblin and John Jaunet, aged about five or six and twenty years each, had been drinking and carousing in several public-houses, until at last they quarrelled with two other individuals. From words it came to blows; and Jaunet received one on the head by a bottle, which prostrated him on the floor. His associate, Noblin, who was, at the moment, engaged in combat with a female antagonist across a narrow table, fell also deprived of sense. This double defeat put an end to the fray, and the spectators hastened to afford assistance to Noblin and Jaunet. The latter, who had been merely stunned by the blow which he received, quickly recovered—but Noblin died on the spot. On the body, there were few or no marks of external violence; but, on dissection, it was evident that Noblin died in consequence of a violent determination of blood to the head and chest, accelerated, no doubt, by the state of inebriety and passion at the moment of the rencontre, and totally independent of any influence from an impression or blow *ab externo*.

Jaunet's head presented a contused wound, of nearly an inch in extent, accompanied by

symptoms of concussion, which, however, were removed by quietude, low diet, and open bowels.

Now, suppose Noblin had received this blow from the bottle, instead of Jaunet, what influence would the circumstance have had on the minds of the spectators and of the medical evidence?—It is to be feared, that even the legal surgeon or physician would not have been able to divest himself entirely of prejudice on such an occasion. And yet it is manifest that the contusion received by Jaunet would not have altered, for worse or for better, the fate of Noblin, had the latter received it himself.

BARON BOTTGER.

John Bottger, a German apothecary, from Schlaig, in Voightland, was the first in Europe who invented the art of making porcelain; in the early part of his life he was apprenticed to an apothecary, of the name of Zorn, at Berlin, where he met with an alchemist, who, in return for some good offices done to him by Bottger, promised to teach him the art of making gold. Bottger then, imagining himself to be in possession of the secret of making gold, immediately concluded that his fortune was made, and ran away from Berlin to Saxony, in the year 1700. Thither he was pursued by his master, but he found protection in that country; where they

at length, nevertheless, urged him to give a specimen of his pretended knowledge, which, in fact, the poor apothecary was not able to do, as he had been completely imposed upon, and in truth knew nothing of the matter. It happened, however, that having, in the course of his experiments, mixed various earths together, in order to make strong and durable crucibles, on baking them he accidentally discovered the art of making porcelain; thus, the intended transmutation took place, not in the metals, indeed, but in his own person; and, as if he had been touched with a conjuror's wand, he was, on a sudden, transformed from an alchemist into a potter; and, in consequence of the success of the manufactory, from a potter he became a baron, so that, as it has happened in numerous cases with the alchemists, although he missed his first object, yet the experiments which he was led to make opened to him another road to riches and honour.—s.

SURPRISING CURE OF THE AGUE.

In Aubrey's Lives and Letters from the Bodleian Library, the author relates the following curious anecdotes, among others, of Butler, the famous physician, whom he represents as a man of great modes (singularities);—

“ A serving man brought his master's water

to Dr. Butler, being then in his studie, with turned barres, but would not be spoken with. After much fruitlesse importunity, the man told the Dr. he was resolved he should see his master's water; he would not be turned away; and so threw it in on the Dr.'s head. This humour pleased the Dr. and he went to the gent. and cured him. The Dr. lyeing at the Savoy, in London, next the water-side, where a balcony looked into the Thames, a patient came to him, that was grievously tormented with an ague. The Dr. orders a boat to be in readinesse under his windowe, and discoursed with the patient (a gentleman) in the balcony, when, on a signall given, two or three lusty fellowes came behind the gentleman, and threw him a matter of twenty feet into the Thames. —This surprise absolutely cured him."—p. 267.

FORENSIC PHRENOLOGY.

Our phrenological readers are aware that Drs. Gall and Spurtzheim place the organ of *amativeness* in the cerebellum, and some insulated facts, recorded by authors, seem to support the idea of an intimate relation between the brain and the genital organs. The following case, related nearly 200 years ago, by Hildanus, will be interesting to the phrenologists of the present day.

In the year 1630, a consistory court was held at Berne, at which Hildanus, and several other physicians assisted, in order to examine Michael Tutzler, aged 36, for impotency, of which, it appears, he was accused by his wife. Nothing external was defective; but the man himself confessed, that eight years previously he had received a severe blow on his head from a stick, which had deprived him of hearing in his right ear, and had caused, for a time, an involuntary discharge of urine. From that period "*Confitebatur penem erigi non posse.*" Upon this report being made to the court by the medical committee, a divorce was granted.

MEDICAL EDUCATION.

It is certain, that the knowledge of medicine is involved in many difficulties, has advanced slowly, and is far behind that of every other science; yet the improvements which have taken place in modern times, and the substitution of experiment for theory and system, afford, to future generations, a happier prospect. The principle of late interesting publications, which has for object the prevention of diseases, by a physical education, or the diffusion of physiological knowledge, is peculiarly deserving of encouragement and praise. The *arcana* of this profession, like all other mys-

teries, has covered infinite mischief. To those disinterested men of genius, who have converted truth, and simplified the sciences, the world will be indebted for light and happiness.

DR. ATWELL.

Dr. Atwell was a Cornish man, and not only practised physic for the body, but for the soul also, being parson of St. Ives, where he lived about 1602. His success in the cure of souls we have no means of judging, but the voice of public fame has been sufficiently favourable to him in his medical capacity.

Carew, in his Survey of Cornwall, speaks of him as well versed in the theory of physic, and very successful in the practice of it, even beyond the belief of most. Although he now and then used blood-letting, he mostly prescribed milk for all diseases, and very often milk and apples, which apparently simple, inefficacious, and even contrary medicaments, either by their own virtues, or the fortune of the physician, or the fancy of the patients, recovered many out of the most desperate extremities, and his reputation maintained itself for many years.

Dr. Atwell, as became a minister of the gospel, bestowed his pains on the poor gratis,

and from those who paid him a fee he took moderately, and always gave one half of what he received from the master as a vale to the servants of the house.

Although the singularity of a man's practice, and his success in it, is a very common means of his reputation, yet it may be doubted whether the partition of his fees with the servants of his patients cannot but have had a considerable effect in regard to their recommendations, when they were likely to be so highly benefitted. Many tricks of this kind, to obtain practice, have been put into use, but few in which so large a proportion has been given to the *trumpeters*. Was not this owing to his conscientiousness of having, in reality, little or no real skill in physic?—s.

CHARACTER OF DR. FREIND.

It was soon observed by Dr. Freind, that Sanctorius, Borelli, and Baglivi, in Italy; and Pitcairne and Keil at home, had introduced a more mathematical method of enquiring after physical truths, than had been known to most of the writers of the preceding age. He, therefore, resolved to apply their way of reasoning, in order to set a subject of great importance, of daily use, and general concern, about which the learned have always been divided, in such a

light as might put an end to disputes, and open the eyes of mankind, to what was then supposed a natural imperplexed theory, from whence, as a matter of course, an effectual and satisfactory practice might be deduced. This he imagines himself to have accomplished in his *Emmenologia*, which he gave to the public when he was about the age of twenty-eight; and though at first it met with considerable opposition through the reverence entertained for old systems, and the prejudices with which others beheld the alterations made by their contemporaries, yet it was hailed by the mathematical sect as an excellent work.

In the spring of 1701, he had previously written a letter to Dr. Sloane, a letter in latin, concerning some extraordinary cases of persons afflicted with convulsions, in Oxfordshire, which at that time made a very great noise, and might probably have been magnified into something supernatural, if our author had not taken great pains to set them in their proper light.

In the succeeding year he was appointed to read chemical lectures in the University of Oxford, in which he made a fresh attempt to extend the mathematical and mechanical explanation of natural philosophy to chemistry; but, although the Hon. Robert Boyle and M. Lemerier had previously attempted the same, yet the

subject does not seem to admit of this mode of explanation; and hence, although these lectures were received with satisfaction by the audience, to whom they were addressed, no chemist of reputation ever paid the least attention to them; and of all the chemical books which have been written, Freind's Lectures are, perhaps, that which is the soonest thrown down half read by any practical man.

In 1705, he attended the famous Earl Peterborough in his Spanish expedition, in which, as physician to the army, he had no small share of fatigue; and, on his return home through Italy, he made a tour to Rome, partly for the pleasure of visiting and conversing with Baglivi and Lancisi. On coming back to England, he found the character of his patron (the Earl of Peterborough) attacked; and, out of a spirit of justice and gratitude, plunged into politics, and wielded his pen in defence of that great man. He was created doctor of physic July 7, 1707, his reputation every day increasing, in proportion to the increasing violence of party disputes, and the predominance of the mechanical theory of physic, in consequence of the fame of Sir Isaac Newton's philosophy.

In 1722 he was elected a burgess to parliament for Launceston, in the county of Cornwall; and, acting as a member of parliament

with that warmth and freedom which was natural to him, he distinguished himself by some quick speeches against such measures as he disapproved. As those were very critical times, and a matter of great importance was going on, in which Dr. Freind conceived himself obliged to take some share, it drew upon him so much suspicion, that the Habeas Corpus act being at that time suspended, a warrant was issued against him, for being concerned in Bishop Atterbury's plot; and he was committed to the Tower, where he continued prisoner three months, when he was first admitted to bail, and afterwards discharged from his recognizance.

It was during this confinement that Dr. Freind laid the plan of his History of Physic, from the time of Galen to the close of the sixteenth century; the first part of which was published in 1725, and the second in the year following.

The severity which Dr. Freind met with, from those who differed from him in political principles, was amply recompensed soon after he obtained his liberty, by the favour she received from George II., then Prince of Wales, who entrusted him with the care of some of his royal family, when indisposed, and who under him happily recovered.

His health having been some time previously

on the decline, Dr. Freind expired July 6th, 1728, in the 52d year of his age. The pension settled upon his wife bore testimony how large a share he possessed of his sovereign's affections. Dr. Wigan published his latin works, and added to them his History of Physic, translated into the same language, with an excellent historical preface, and a grateful commemoration of his obligation to the deceased.

The celebrity which this author attained in his own time, is to be ascribed more to party spirit, and to his attempts to extend the mathematical principles of natural philosophy into medicine and chemistry, than to any professional abilities. His History of Physic is a meagre sketch, and disappoints the expectation of the reader.

CURES OF THE GOUT.

We have already related an instance from that entertaining work, Aubrey's Letters, from the Bodleian Library, of the instantaneous cure of an ague, by Dr. Butler; several similar instances of the cure of diseases by fright are on record.

The Honorable Robert Boyle relates the ease of a gentleman in Cornwall who was rendered unable to walk by repeated attacks of the gout; but, as he belonged to a very religious family, he was wheeled every Sunday to church.

On one of these days an alarm was given that the Spaniards had landed from a couple of galleys, and were then approaching the place to plunder it; the congregation instantly dispersed, and, in the confusion, the gentleman was totally forgotten, and left by himself in the church. In this extremity he, in his turn, forgot his disorder, and ran out after his friends, who were agreeably surprised, as soon as they recovered from their fright sufficiently to look behind them, to see their afflicted friend close at their heels.

A somewhat similar instance is recorded, by the same author, of an old gentleman, who, after having several poultices of boiled turnips applied to his hands and feet, was set in a chair in the garden to enjoy the fresh air. The scent of his poultices attracted the notice of an old sow, who entered the garden, and began to attack his feet to get at the turnips: the old gentleman was apprehensive that she might not content herself with her natural food, but might trespass on his toes, and as he knew that the family were all engaged at a distant part, far out of his call, he was so frightened, that his apprehensions not only produced an immediate cure of his disease, but he was also enabled to get rid of his disagreeable assailant.

These were fortuitous cures of the gout; but

we shall hereafter relate an anecdote of a French physician which may be put in practice.

DR. JOHN BROWN.

It may gratify the adherents of that great northern light in physic, John Brown, to learn that their hero has divided the faculty in Sicily into two parties, in each of which symptoms are to be traced evincing the existence of a moral malady, but too common, if we might not say, almost universal amongst the faculty of the British islands, the *odium medicum*.

A preliminary to a Sicilian consultation has more than once produced the question—How does opium operate? And the true Brunonian answer, *Non sedat opium*,* has often been seen written in large characters, on the outside of a wine-house, in the plain of Catania, followed by the appropriate exclamation, *Viva il celeberrimo Brown*. †—s.

OLD AGE OF BOERHAAVE.

The name of Boerhaave is justly regarded as one of the most illustrious in the calendar of modern medicine. After having vigorously struggled with poverty in his youth, his talents and his fame at length created a fortune for him;

* Opium is not a sedative.

† The very celebrated Brown for ever.

and, it is said, that he left two millions of florins to his only son. Did this wealth alter the man? Let us learn from his own mouth what he was in his 67th year; when, in a letter to his old scholar, J. B. Bassaud, then Physician to the Emperor of Germany, he writes thus:—

“ My health is very good. I sleep at my country-house. I go to town every morning by five o’clock; and I occupy myself there, from that time until six in the evening, in relieving the sick. I understand chemistry; I amuse myself in reading it; I revere, I love, I adore, the only God! When I return to the country, I visit my plants: I acknowledge and admire the presents with which the liberality of my friend Bassaud has enriched me. My garden seems to be proud of the variety and strength of its trees. I pass my life in contemplating my plants; I grow old in the desire of possessing new ones. Amiable and sweet folly! Thus riches only serve to irritate the thirst of possession, and the miser is miserable from the liberality of his benefactor. Forgive the madness of an old friend, who wishes to plant trees, the beauty and shade of which will be destined to give delight only to his nephews. It is thus that my life passes, without any other chagrin than my distance from you, and happy in every thing else.”

What an amiable picture does this present of that great and good man! What activity, and what zeal for the relief of suffering humanity! The original letter is written in Latin, and it has been found difficult to catch the spirit of the original.

THE PHYSICIAN OF THE MOUNTAIN.

Mr. Coxe, in his Tour through Switzerland, says, " You have heard, perhaps, of Michel Schuppach, the famous Swiss doctor, of whose intuitive sagacity, in discovering the seat of disorders, and applying suitable remedies to them, many wonderful stories are recounted by travellers, and which generally, I suppose, have increased in the marvellous, like Virgil's Progress of Fame, in proportion as they receded from the scene of action. I am now lodged in the house of this celebrated Æsculapius; it is situated above the village of Langenace, on the side of a steep mountain; and, from that circumstance, he is generally known by the appellation of the *physician of the mountain*.

" Upon our arrival here, we found the doctor in his apartment, surrounded by a number of peasants, who were consulting him upon their respective complaints, each having brought with him a small bottle, containing some of his water, for it is by inspecting the urine that this medical sage pretends to judge of the state of the patient. His figure is extremely corpulent; he has a penetrating eye, and one of the best-humoured countenances I ever saw. He sets himself opposite to the person who consults him, one moment examining the water, and the next the patient;

and continues regarding attentively the one and the other for sometime; always whistling during the intervals. He then opens the state of the case, acquaints the consultant with the nature of his complaints, and has often the good fortune to hit upon the true cause. In a word, his knack of discovering disorders by urine, has gained such implicit faith in his skill, that one might as well doubt in the Pope's infallibility, before a zealous Catholic, as of the doctor's, in the presence of his patients. He has certainly performed several great cures; and the rumour of them has brought him patients from all quarters of Europe. There are, at this time, in his house, and in the village, several English and French people, together with many Swiss, who are come hither for his advice.

“The doctor was formerly, it seems, a village surgeon, has a slight tincture of anatomy, and is esteemed a proficient in botany and chemistry; but his reputation as a physician has now been established for some years. He is said to have but little acquaintance with the theory of physic; the greatest part of his knowledge being derived from his extensive practice, notwithstanding he never stirs a quarter of a mile from his own house; for he would not take the trouble of going to Berne even to attend the king of France.

“It is more than probable, that much of this

extraordinary man's success, in his practice, is owing to the great faith of his patients, to the benefit they receive from change of climate, to the salubrious air of this mountain, and to the amusements arising from that constant succession of different company which assemble in this place, in order to apply to him for assistance. But whatever may have been the causes of his celebrity, it has come to him, as all accounts agree, unsought for by himself. He has, certainly, many excellent qualities; humane and charitable to the highest degree, he not only furnishes the indigent peasants, who consult him, with medicines *gratis*, but generally makes them a present in money besides; and he always appropriates a certain portion of his gains to the poor of his parish. His wife, as also his grand-daughters, who live with him, are dressed like the peasants of the country; and he has shewn his good sense by giving the latter no better than a plain education; the eldest he bestowed in marriage when she was but fifteen, upon one of his assistants, and gave with her 1300*l.*, no inconsiderable portion for this country. He procured a match so early for her, he said, to prevent her being spoiled by the young gentlemen telling her she was pretty, and inspiring her with the ambition of marrying above her rank.

“ If domestic harmony, and the most perfect simplicity of manners, have any pretensions to please, you would be highly delighted with this rural family. The wife is a notable, active woman, and not only superintends all the household affairs with remarkable cleverness, but even performs great part of the business with her own hands; she assists her husband likewise in making up his medicines; and, as he talks no other language than the Swiss-German, she serves occasionally as his interpreter; and, as a proof of his confidence in her administration in his affairs, she acts also as his treasurer, and receives all his fees; which, in the course of a year, amount to a considerable sum; for, although he never demands more than the price of his medicines, yet no gentleman consults him without giving him an additional gratuity. Many presents have, likewise, been made to herself, from persons who have reaped benefit by her husband's prescriptions; several of these consist of valuable trinkets, with which, on the days of ceremony, she decks herself forth to the best advantage, in the simple dress of the country.

“ This singular man is very often employed in giving his advice from eight in the morning till six in the evening, with no other intermission than during the time he is at table. His

drugs are of the best kind, for he collects the simples as well as distils them himself. His house, like those of the peasants, is constructed of wood; and, though always full of people, is remarkably neat and clean. In short, every thing about him has the appearance of the pleasing simplicity of former ages.

“ I had almost forgotten to tell you, that I consulted him this morning myself; and assuredly I have reason to be highly flattered with his prescription, for he told me I was in such good health, that the only advice he had to give me was ‘ to eat and drink well, to dance, be merry, and take moderate exercise.’ ”

STATE OF MEDICINE IN SICILY.

It may amuse the reader to lay before him a few points to illustrate the state of medicine as practised in Sicily. With this view some dogmas are here transcribed from the *Institutiones Medicinæ* of the Professor of that science in the University of Catania:—

“ Ungues pedum et digitorum limati, vomitum excitant, et valent contra epilepsiam, lethargiam, hydropem et intermittentes febres.” *

* The parings of the nails of the hands and feet excite vomiting, and are useful in the falling sickness, in lethargy, dropsy, and agues.

“ Urina interne assumpta, et recens et tepida ad $\frac{3}{4}$ v ad $\frac{3}{4}$ vj matutino tempore, jejuno stomacho, viperarum venenum arcet.” *

“ Urina mariti a parturientibus hausta partum facilem reddit.” †

Many other similar prescriptions are scattered all throughout the work. Such a breakfast as the second receipt, such *Siculæ dapes*, would not suit an English stomach.—s.

ANCIENT STATE OF SURGERY IN SCOTLAND.

When the Surgeons of Edinburgh were, in 1505, incorporated, under the denominations of Surgeons and Barbers, it was required of them to be able to *read and write*! “ to know anatomie, nature, and complexion of everie member of humanis bodie, and, lykwayes to know all vaynes of the samyn, that he may make flewbothemie in dew time;” together with a perfect knowledge of shaving beards. These were all the qualifications that seemed necessary to the art of surgery, at the beginning of the sixteenth century. The practice of physic was, if possible, in a still more deplorable state.—*Campbell's Journey from Edinburgh to the Highlands.*

* Urine drank fresh and warm in a morning, on an empty stomach, guards against the poison of vipers.

† The husband's urine, drank by a lying-in woman, procures her an easy delivery.

Here, it is to be observed, barbers and surgeons, as already well known, were one and the same profession, who exclusively practised as a craft the dressing of wounds, shaving of beards, and making and selling of whiskey throughout the *gude town*.

VAN HELMONT.

John Baptist Van Helmont, the second great chief of the chemical physicians, was born of a noble family, at Brussels, in the year 1577, thirty-six years after the death of Paracelsus. He lost his father in 1580; and, being the youngest child, applied himself, against the consent of his mother, and without consulting his friends, to the study of physic. He finished his course of philosophy in the year 1594, being the 17th of his age, when he was noted for a great reader, having read Galen twice, Hippocrates once, and all the other physicians, both Greeks and Arabs, with great care; and even common-placed the more remarkable passages in them. When, going to Lovain, he was appointed, by the professors Thomas Tyenus, Gerard Villers, and Hornius, to read Public Lectures on Chirurgery, in the College of Physicians. In the 22d year of his age, being the year 1599, he was created doctor of physic at Lovain. Here he begun to see through the

insufficiency of the school-physic, long before he discovered any better medicines of his own. Happening to be troubled with a slight itch, which he could not get rid of by the school-method, but which was easily removed by means of sulphur, he repented having ever devoted himself to the study of physic, considering the nobleness of his birth, and that none of his family had hitherto stooped to that profession. On these motives he threw it up, divided his fortune among his relations, and quitted his country, with an intention never to return. His books, to the value of 200 crowns, he threw aside, and setting out for foreign countries, rambled ten whole years, till, being instructed in chemistry by a certain illiterate person, he applied himself wholly to that art; and having, in the compass of two years, obtained a few chemical medicines, he became capable of curing some diseases.

In the year 1609, he married a rich and noble wife, with whom he retired to Wilwoord, where he gave himself wholly up to the pursuits of chemistry; during his noviciate in this art, he tried many dangerous experiments, which frequently hazarded his life. And though he did not visit patients and practise physic for gain, he assures us he cured every year some thousands of sick people. He spent fifty whole

years in distillations; and, during his retirement at Wilwoord, he examined, with great pains and industry, all kinds of bodies, fossile, vegetable, or animal, in a chemical way; and thus first furnished a new body or course of chemical knowledge. Here he made the discoveries of oil of sulphur per campanam, the laudanum Paracelsi, spirit of hart's-horn, spirit of human blood, sal volatile oleosum, &c.

He was in high esteem with the electoral bishop of Cologne, a prince eminently skilled in chemistry; and was invited, by the emperor Rudolph, and two other emperors, to the court of Vienna; but he always refused. In the year 1624, he published a treatise, printed at Liege, *De Aquis Spadanis*, or, of the Spa-Waters, and afterwards several other pieces. He was not able to cure two of his sons, whom he lost of the plague, nor his eldest daughter of a leprosy, though he practised on her full two years. Nor could he cure his wife, nor his maid, nor himself, of poison. In January, 1640, being the 63d year of his age, he was seized with a fever, attended with a slight shivering, which made his teeth chatter; a pricking pain about the sternum, a difficulty of respiration, and a spitting first of bloody matter, then of pure blood. For the removal hereof, he took shavings of the penis of a stag, upon

which the pain grew less; then he took a dram of goat's blood, and the spitting of blood stopped for four days, leaving only a slight cough, with a moderate expectoration: but the fever still remained, and was followed by a pain in the spleen, for which he took wine boiled with crabs-eyes; whereupon all the symptoms disappeared. In the year 1643, he was seized with a syncope, occasioned by the smoke of charcoal, which he cured with sulphur of vitriol. On the 18th of November, 1644, he fell into an asthma, attended with two fits of a pleurisy, and after languishing seven weeks, died of a slight fever and extreme weakness, on the 30th of December, 1644. As he perceived his death approaching, he called for his son, and gave him the following charge. Take all my writings, the crude as well as the finished ones, and join them together; to your care I commit them; do with them what you think good; for so it has pleased Almighty God, who directs every thing to the best purposes. This son was a person of deep thought, but a little tainted with enthusiasm, and in his father's life-time had strolled about with a gang of gypsies.

After the Father's decease, he acquitted himself of the trust, publishing them just as he found

them, without any regard to order, consistency, or correctness; and, beside, trusted the impression principally to the printer; so that we frequently find Helmont relating things in one place, which he contradicts in another; and, indeed, 'tis no wonder we don't find the same tenor throughout; for, as chemistry grew under his hands, and as many new views must turn up in forty or fifty years, which he spent in gradually improving the art, it is easy to conceive how there should arise a difference. The pieces published by himself are all excellent; that of the stone is incomparable, and the best; that of fevers is a valuable work; and that of the humours is a fine piece. The Galenical doctrine of the four elements, four qualities, four degrees, and four humours, with the method of cure by tempering these degrees, are here clearly and directly proved to be false and insignificant. The treatise on the plague, which is one of the posthumous pieces, has many good things, though it does not come up to the merit of the former. But the rest are all so much inferior, that one would never suspect them to have come from the same hand. The best edition is that of Amsterdam, in 4to. *apud Elzevir*. In the Venetian edition, in folio, there are several pieces not Helmont's.—s.

STATE OF PHYSICIANS IN SPAIN.

Even in the present day the fee of a physician is twopence from the tradesman, tenpence from the man of fashion, and nothing from the poor. Some of the noble families agree with the physician by the year, paying him annually fourscore reals, that is, sixteen shillings for his attendance on them and their families. They all acknowledge that the monks are more liberal than people of the first fashion, especially if confidence and secrecy are needful.

Townsend's Journey.

THE ANTIQUITY OF PHYSIC.

Fuller quaintly observes, in his Worthies of England, that the precept in the Apocrypha hath a canonical truth contained in it, 'Honour the physician for necessity sake.' Although King Asa received little benefit by them, it was because of his preposterous addressing himself to them before he went to God. And the woman in the Gospel reaped less ease by their endeavours, because God reserved her as a subject for his own miraculous cure; yet, in all ages, millions have been cured by their practice.

It may be asked, What use there was of physicians in the Christian church, seeing that the Apostles miraculously cured all maladies, and

so (to our apprehension) gave a supersedeas to the practitioners in that faculty; yet there is honorable mention made of Luke, the beloved physician (Col. 4. 14). As for the Apostles, they had not always power, at their own pleasure, to work miracles and cure diseases in all persons; no, nor always themselves, witness sick St. Paul receiving, in himself, the sentence of death (2 Cor. 1. 8, 9); but as they were directed for the glory of God, and other occasions. And, therefore, notwithstanding their miraculous power, St. Luke might have plenty of practice in his profession.

The ancient Britons, who went without clothes, may well be presumed to live without physic; yet sure they had some experimental receipts used amongst them, and left the rest to nature and temperance to cure.

The Saxons had those they termed leeches, or blood-letters, but were little skilled in methodical practice.

Under the Normans, physicians began in England.

Physic, before 1350, was no distinct profession by itself, but practised by men in orders; witness Nicholas de Fernham, the chief English physician, and bishop of Durham; Hugh of Evesham, a physician and cardinal; Grisant, a physician and pope.

The word physician appears not on our Statutes till the days of King Henry the Eighth, who incorporated their College in London; since which time they have multiplied and flourished in our nation, but never was more and more learned than in our age, wherein that art, and especially the anatomical part thereof, is much improved.

MEMORABLE CASE OF MENTAL INSENSIBILITY.

A man was impressed into his majesty's service early in the beginning of the late revolutionary war. He was taken to the Mediterranean, and there received a fall from the yard-arm; he was picked up on the deck, insensible. The vessel soon after made Gibraltar, and he was put into the hospital there, where he remained some months insensible; he was then removed on-board of the Dolphin frigate, to Deptford; the surgeon who attended him there, was one day visited by Mr. Davy, a dresser at Guy's hospital. The surgeon said to Mr. Davy, "I have a curious case of a man who has been insensible for a long time; his breathing is rather laborious, his pulse natural, and it corresponds with the working of his fingers; but he lies on his back, deprived of volition and sensation." Mr. Davy accompanied the surgeon to see him, and he found that there was a slight

depression of the head. Mr. Davy said, "Send him to St. Thomas's Hospital." He came, and was under the care of Mr. Cline. He was found lying on his back, breathing with considerable difficulty, with a regular pulse; and each time the pulse beat, the fingers moved, so that you might tell his pulse by his fingers. If he wanted food, he moved his lips or tongue; that was the sign. Mr. Cline found a depression, and operated upon him. *Thirteen months*, and a few days, after the accident, he was operated on by the trephine, and the depressed portion of bone elevated. Whilst laying on the table, so soon as the portion of depressed bone was raised, the fingers ceased working. The operation was performed at one o'clock; and, at four in the afternoon, I was going round the wards, and saw him raised on his pillow; I went up to him and said, "Have you any pain?" He put his hand to his head: volition and sensation had returned, and, in four days, he got out of bed and conversed; in a few days more, he told us where he came from, of his being pressed, of his being carried down to Plymouth or Falmouth; but from the moment of the accident, thirteen months and a few days, oblivion had spread his drowsy mantle over him; he had drunk freely from the Lethean cup; and there had been, during the whole of this period, almost a total

cessation of every bodily and mental function ; yet, on removing a small piece of bone, the powers of both body and mind were restored. Thus you will see, that you must not be deterred from performing the operation *by any length of time*, for still you may be able to restore the powers of the mind and body.

Sir Astley Cooper's Lectures.

HISTORY OF A BLACK PHYSICIAN.

“I saw at Philadelphia,” says M. Brissot de Warville,* a black physician, named James Derham. The following account of him was attested to me by many physicians :—

“He was brought up a slave in a family of Philadelphia, where he learned to read and write, and was instructed in the principles of religion. When young, he was sold to Dr. John Kearsley, junior, who employed him in compounding medicines, and administering them, in some cases, to the sick. After the death of Dr. Kearsley, he passed through different hands, and came to be the property of George West, surgeon to the British army, under whom, during the late war in America, he performed the lower functions in physic.

* Author of the ‘New Travels in the United States of America.’

“ At the close of the war, he was purchased by Dr. Robert Dove, of New Orleans, who employed him as his assistant. He gained the doctor's good opinion and friendship to such a degree, that he soon gave him his freedom on moderate conditions. Derham was, by this time, so well instructed, that he immediately began to practice, with success, at New Orleans. He is about twenty-six years of age, married, but has no children. His practice brings him 3000 livres, (125*l.*) a-year. Dr. Weston told me, that he conversed with him, particularly on the acute diseases of the country where he lives, and found him well versed in the simple methods, now in practice, of treating those diseases. ‘ I thought,’ said the doctor, ‘ to have indicated to him some new remedies; but he indicated new ones to me.’ *

“ He is modest, and has engaging manners; he speaks French with facility, and has some knowledge of Spanish.”

* It has been generally thought, and even written by some authors of note, that blacks are inferior to the white in mental capacity. This opinion begins to disappear; the northern states furnish examples to the contrary. By instruction, a black may be rendered capable of any of the professions; and the head of a negro may be organized for the most astonishing calculations; and, consequently, for all the sciences.

A PARODY.

I do remember an apothecary,
 And hereabouts he dwells, whom late I noted
 In scarlet suit, at monthly town assembly,
 Master o' the ceremonies: smiling his looks,
 Soft flattery had dimpled well his cheeks,
 And in his parlour hung a set of comic prints,
 A macaw stuff'd, and other birds
 Of rarest plumage; and upon his chimney-piece
 A circulating novel, ivory boxes,
 Green-case of instruments, tooth-picks, pomades,
 Remnants of court-plaster, distill'd rose water;
 "Permacuity for an inward bruise"
 Were neatly ranged, and made up a shew.
 Noting this elegance, to myself I said,
 And if a lady need some lip-salve, now
 "(To guard these rubies yet unparagoned,)"
 Here waits a gentle swain will make it up,
 Being market-day—he's sure at home.

(*Romeo*, v. 1.)

SELF-PERFORMED CÆSARIAN SECTIONS.

Some marvellous cases of this kind are on record; but, though on record, are of a very suspicious authenticity. Dr. Moseley has related the case of a negro-woman, in Jamaica, who performed the operation on herself, by cutting boldly through the uterus, and extracting a child from the left side of the abdomen. This operation was performed with a butcher's knife. The child died of locked-jaw, but the mother

recovered. Extraordinary and incredible as this case may appear, it is more than equalled by a case recently published in the New-York Medical and Physical Journal, for March, 1823.

This case was reported to the Rennzelaer Medical Society, by Dr. Samuel M'Clellan, (who appears to have been one of the two physicians in attendance) the president of the Society, and by them forwarded to several of the American journals. It is one of those extraordinary cases that cannot easily be believed, nor yet positively denied. The operator was a young servant girl, a quadroon, (*one-fourth black*) and only fourteen years of age. While the family were at dinner, she went a little way from the house, and placed herself on a wreath of snow, where she was discovered by her master in the act of covering something with snow, which proved, afterwards, to be a naked child. As soon as perceived, she immediately ran to the house with the second child hanging out at the wound, together with a considerable portion of her intestines. She was now surrounded by two medical men, Dr. Basset and another. A wound was found near the center of the epigasttric region, from which the second foetus was extracted. This wound was four inches in length, extending in a diagonal direction, as respected the abdomen, about two inches above the umbi-

licus, with another incision, at nearly a right angle with the former, extending toward the sternum. The lower part of the abdomen was considerably distended with blood. This was first evacuated by changes of posture and gentle compression. The wound was then sewed up, and a bandage applied. She recovered. "I should judge," says the reporter, "from the appearance of the blood upon the snow, (there being three several places where she evidently stopped) that the incision was made immediately preceding the rupture of the membranes, and that the first child was delivered, by the usual way, the third pain after the rupture."

TWO HEADS BETTER THAN ONE.

Fabricius Hildanus, a great physician and very good surgeon, once happened to find himself singularly embarrassed. He was called to see a peasant, into whose eye flew a sparkle of iron. He attempted different ways to extract it, and even made use of some instrument with a view to that effect; but the sparkle escaped him by its tenuity, and all his operations served only to occasion a violent inflammation in the eye of his patient. Fabricius returned home quite pensive, despairing of success, when his wife, being informed of what had passed, began to laugh at her husband's manner of treating the accident.

The doctor, finding himself 'at fault,' did not argue the case with her, lest she, in her turn, should be reduced to a similar dilemma; and she being desirous to enjoy her triumph over him, told her husband that she would be glad to accompany him to the patient, conceiving that she might be of some service to him. Little thinking that any further attempt would be attended with success, Fabricius assents to every thing, and obeys his wife, who bade him hold the patient's eye as wide open as he could. This done, she forthwith drew out of her pocket a loadstone, which she moved about, as near as she could to the surface of the eye, and the same instant the sparkle of iron flew out toward the loadstone, and the patient found himself instantly relieved. Fabricius's wife, as may be well guessed, did not remain mute upon the occasion. She received the testimonies of the peasant's gratitude; but what undoubtedly flattered her most was her husband's acknowledging that, had it not been for her, he should not have had the least idea of so fortunate a resource.

CASE OF BOULIMIA.

A lady, aged 26, had her appetite so morbidly increased that she took three or four pounds of meat at a meal, exclusive of bread and vegetables. She commonly vomited after each meal,

and the ejecta were mixed with a glairy, albuminous, and sourish substance. Many physicians were consulted, and much medicine taken without the least effect. A continued fever at length supervened, and produced a complete disrelish for food; but, as soon as it subsided, the boulimia returned as violent as ever.

Dr. Crane inferred from this that there was a peculiar irritability of stomach, which was increased by food. He therefore tried, but with no success, to confine the patient to liquid aliment, of a mild nature, such as milk and arrow-root. He next tried soups and nutritive enemata. This was more effectual, and he gradually allowed bread and other solid food. In six weeks the appetite became natural, and has now continued so for nine years.

Boulimia is often caused by organic malformations. M. Landrè-Beauvais gives a case of a phthisical patient who had been boulimious all his life; he died; and, on dissection, it was found that he had no gall-bladder, and that the duodenum adhered to the liver. The intestines were unnaturally voluminous.

Hufeland's Journ. & Dict. de Med.

EXTRAORDINARY LACTATION.

In the year 1810, a poor woman of the name of Charles was delivered of male twins; but, being of a weakly constitution, and unable to

suckle them both, she applied one of them to the breast of his *grandmother*, aged 65 years, and in the 29th year of her widowhood. It was 'great cry and little wool' with the poor boy for the first few days, but, afterwards, the milk came kindly and copiously for twenty-two months, and this boy became the stronger of the two.* This is on the assertion of Dr. Montegre, who has published the circumstance in the *Gazette de Sante*.

THE POET AND THE KEY.

The unfortunate Gilbert, a young poet, who, by his eloquent Satire of the "Eighteenth Century," promised to prove a second Boileau, having become insane, swallowed a key, five inches and a half in length. He spoke clearly, respired easily, and complained of no pain in his throat, only had some difficulty of swallowing. He frequently however repeated, though with an ironical smile, 'that the key was in his *throat*. He was taken to the Hôtel-Dieu, where he was examined, but nothing extraordinary could be detected by the surgeons. Nevertheless he died. On examining the body, the key was found in

* This would have gladdened the heart of Johanna Southcote and her proselytes, as, in all probability, young Shiloh would not have required a wet-nurse, but would have drunk from the lactiferous fountains of its holy mamma.

the œsophagus, the ring-end downwards, and the other end hooked on the arytenoid cartilage.*

ACTIVE BENEVOLENCE.

Dr. Petit, a physician of high reputation and ample fortune, at Paris, built a handsome house, at Orleans, his native city, to serve as a dispensary to the poor; and, not content thus to afford them medical assistance *gratis*, he extended his benevolent care to their property. To defend it from the attack of oppression, he appointed lawyers, who had a salary allowed them, to plead the cause of the indigent.

This public benefactor to his native city, was the son of a tailor; and, in order to shew that he was superior to the prejudices which had so long enslaved his countrymen, he appointed the oldest tailor at Orleans, in indigent circumstances, to take care of this new institution. He felt, perhaps, that, having arrived at eminence, by a path the most honorable of all others—that of distinguished talents,—he might be allowed to recollect, without blushing, the lowness of his birth. What are we to admire most—the bene-

* It is not improbable that, during the height of a paroxysm, the unfortunate poet swallowed the key with the intention of opening his chest.

volence, or the modesty, (or rather) the magnanimity of this truly noble character?

BLOOD-LETTING AND LEECHING.

The practice of blood-letting has been regarded as one of the most valuable means, for the subduction of disease, from that remote period, when the desire of relieving pain having first propelled man in search of the agents for mitigating corporal sufferings, at length led to the cultivation of medical knowledge, by the sages of antiquity, whose sagacity and wisdom placed the healing art in a conspicuous rank amidst scientific researches.

At what period the practice actually commenced, we are totally ignorant; but we find an operator, (and he is the first who is positively known to have performed venesection,) in the person of *Podalirius*, one of the warriors engaged in the celebrated contest of the Greeks and Trojans; and who practiced surgery at the same time in the Grecian camp; yet, remote as this period is, it is to be presumed that the operation had been performed even antecedent to that time.

It appears, however, that even Hippocrates was quite unacquainted with the use to which we now so constantly subject the worms called leeches; and yet it is stated, says Dr. Rees,

by a late writer,* that Hippocrates made use of them in his practice, frequently conjoining them with the use of an exhausted cup, to elicit a farther discharge of blood, after they were removed; but this, I believe, is a mistake, as the works of Hippocrates do not make any mention of it; nor does any author appear to be acquainted with leeching down to the time of Themison. The latter, who resided at Laodicea, was a pupil of Asclepiades, and the predecessor of Celsus; and is the first author we find who treats of their medicinal use; and, it being often his practice to apply an exhausted cup over the bites of leeches, the mistake may have arisen, in the work before alluded to, of ascribing to Hippocrates what belonged to Themison; and from the writings, therefore, which have been left us, we may venture to assert, that Themison was the *first* who applied leeches to the body as instruments of bleeding.

The reputation which Themison possessed for great talent and judgment, was a sufficient inducement to others to try the success of the practice; and the leech, consequently, soon came into general estimation in that part of the world. Even the opponents of Themison, amongst whom was Galen, (whose learning and wisdom

* Mapleson on Cupping.

were so eminent, that his opinions gave laws to medical science over three-quarters of the globe, during a space of 1300 years,) were convinced of its utility, and sanctioned its use, as appears by the works of the latter, in which he has introduced the subject; thus presenting a liberality but too seldom recorded in the annals of modern medicine; for, though Galen was most strenuously opposed to the opinions and practice of the methodic sect, yet, he did not hesitate to adopt, and recommend, such corrective measures as he found actually useful, even though introduced by Themison.

From the time of Themison, we find Roman, Grecian, and Arabian physicians and authors, speaking highly in favour of leeches; and the illustrious name of Pliny adds much force to such recommendation. Antyllus, also, another celebrated physician of the first years of the Christian era, was much in the habit of directing local bleeding, by scarification and cupping; but, in all cases where this could not be conveniently done, he advised the application of leeches. Thenemachus, a physician, and strenuous in support of the doctrines and practice of Themison, followed the steps of his predecessor, in his partiality for leeching; and his writings contain various observations on his successful practice of it.

Since the introduction of the leech, in the reign of Augustus Cæsar, it has remained in universal request, both by the ancients and moderns. Greece, Italy, and Arabia are now no longer the confined sphere of its medicinal action; and to the names of Themison, Celsus, Antyllus, Pliny, Galen, Aretus, Oribasius, Ætius, Ægenetus, Avicenna, &c. are now to be added those of the most celebrated of modern times, whose experience and practice have established its value. And yet leeching has never obtained, in England, the free and almost unlimited extension as on the continent; and it is even a matter of reproach, that our partiality for the lancet has thrown, into some degree of neglect, this sometimes useful auxiliary to depletory measures.

PERVERSION OF THE APOTHECARIES' ACT.

A trial came on at York lately, in which a surgeon-apothecary sued the head of a family, all of whom he had cured of the itch. The whole bill only amounted to five or six pounds. The plaintiff was proved to be a regular surgeon, and had been in practice for some years previous to 1814; but, in that year, he had embarked on board a vessel as surgeon. He was, consequently, *not practising on terra-firma* on the first day of August, 1815. He returned

after the act was passed, and it was in his subsequent practice that the subject of dispute arose. He was non-suited because he was not actually practising on the identical day on which the act became law!! We consider this as a most disgraceful quibble, subversive of justice, and, in fact, contrary both to the letter and spirit of the act itself, which says,—“in practice as an apothecary prior to, *or on* the said first day of August, 1815.” If it had been “prior to *and on* the day” in question, it would have been a different thing.

Med. Chirurg. Rev. June, 1824.

THE POTATOE.

The history of the potatoe is most extraordinary, and strikingly illustrative of the imperious influence of authority. In fact, the introduction of this valuable plant received, for more than two centuries, an unprecedented opposition, from vulgar prejudice, which all the philosophy of the age was unable to dissipate, until Louis XV. wore a bunch of the flowers of the potatoe in the midst of his court, on a day of mirth and festivity. The people then, for the first time, obsequiously acknowledged its utility, and began to express their astonishment at the apathy which had so long prevailed with regard to its general cultivation.

LAW RESPECTING FŒTICIDE.

We know, as all the world does, that "doctors differ," and we fear that lawyers find it necessary so to do also. A case was tried, where it was alleged that *savine* had been administered to a pregnant woman, for the purpose of procuring abortion. It was urged in behalf of the prisoner, that the substance given was not *savine*. Upon this it was ruled, that it did not signify what the substance was, or what powers it possessed, nor whether the woman to whom it was administered was actually with child or not; provided the substance was, in the prisoner's opinion, capable of producing the intended effect, his guilt was the same. This was a close application of the *Ellenborough* "intent" act; but it so happened that the prisoner, in this case, had administered an innocuous draught, with the "intent" of amusing the female, who seemed to be in so desperate a frame of mind as to be bent on self-destruction. The prisoner in this case was acquitted.

The statute now in force expressly declares, that "the administration of any thing whatever, with the *intent* to cause the miscarriage of a woman," constitutes the offence, in whichsoever of the two degrees of criminality that are as-

signed to it, with reference to the period of quickening, it may be committed.

In 1824, a most depraved character appeared at the Old Bailey as a witness against her own paramour, for having, by her own desire, and in pursuance of her own instructions, procured *savine* for her in a third illegitimate pregnancy. The wretch explained the manner in which she came to the knowledge and experience of the supposed powers of this drug, and how she had, in the present instance, used it, though without effect. Upon this the presiding judge stopped the prosecution, on the ground that the emmenagogue resorted to was not proved to possess the powers imputed to it. We confess that it would have had the appearance of scandal to British justice, had the man accused been found guilty from the evidence of the greater miscreant of the two; but we must also confess that we should like, not for the sake of curiosity, to know what is *the meaning* of the statute on this point; for it has a very close reference to the performance of some of our duties.

Med. Journal, 1824.

SIMPLE REMEDY FOR A SINGULAR DISEASE.

It is very remarkable, that, at Aleppo, in Syria, a disorder prevails, called the Aleppo disease, which is common to both sexes, and

which attacks natives as well as foreigners. It appears in a kind of boil, which breaks out in various parts of the body, and which, at the end of the year, suppurates and then heals without any other inconvenience than leaving a scar in the place where it was. For a long time this disease was attributed to the subtlety of the air of Aleppo; but late observations have induced some to believe that it is occasioned rather by the water. I have known people, who, during their residence here, never drank water till it had been boiled, remain free from this distemper. Others, who pursued a different conduct, though they staid in the city only a few days, were attacked by this disease even a year after. This malady is announced by a fever; and the method of cure is very simple. Nothing more is necessary than to lay an ivy-leaf, with a little cerate spread upon it, over the tumour, and this brings it to a suppuration in the course of a year. No particular regimen is required; and when a cure is effected, the body generally enjoys good health for a long time after.—*Mariti's Travels.*

MISUNDERSTANDING.

Among the Polish prisoners of war who were in Russia in 1661, was a distinguished nobleman, with whom nobody was allowed to speak

without witnesses. This man became ill, and applied for a physician, which the Czar granted. The physician prescribed *Cremor Tartari*. The doctor had scarcely got home, when he was arrested and carried before the minister, who, as soon as he entered, addressed him very angrily, calling him a traitor, threatening the severest punishments, exclaiming, "You dog, what have you been talking to the Pole about the Crim Tartars?" The doctor, who stood motionless with astonishment, now comprehended the misunderstanding arising from the report made by some listeners to the minister, and explained it by shewing the prescription which he had left with the patient.

Hist. de Warsaw.

VORACITY AND SECRET CORRESPONDENCE.

Passing by the famous Bijoux, who lived at the Royal Menagerie, and amused himself in classing animals by the forms of their excrements, we come to a singular personage, well known in Paris, where he died a few years ago, and who was named Tarrare. This man's voracity would stagger all belief, were not the truth of the circumstances guaranteed by the most unquestionable testimonies, among which it is only necessary to mention Professor Baron Percy. At 17 years of age Tarrare weighed only one

hundred pounds, and yet he could devour, in the space of twenty-four hours, a quarter of beef as heavy as his body? At the commencement of the revolutionary war he entered the army, but here he was so scantily supplied with food, that he soon fell ill, and was conducted to the military hospital at Soultz. On the day of his entrance he got four rations, which only serving to whet his appetite, he devoured every kind of refuse victuals in the ward, then searched the kitchen, dispensary, &c. devouring every thing, even the poultices, that came in his way! In the presence of the chief physician of the army, Doctor Lorence, he ate a live cat in a few seconds, leaving nothing but the larger bones! In a few minutes, he devoured a dinner prepared for fifteen German labourers, and composed of various substantial dishes. After this *tiffin*, his belly appeared like a small balloon! As the French in those days turned every thing to account, the commander-in-chief had him brought before him, and after treating him with thirty pounds of liver and lights, he caused him to swallow a small wooden case, in which was enclosed a letter to a French officer, then in the hands of the enemy. Tarrare set off, was taken prisoner, beaten and confined. He passed by stool the case with the letter, before he could see the officer, but immediately

swallowed it again, to prevent its falling into the hands of the enemy. In another hospital where he was confined, the nurses frequently detected him drinking the blood which had been drawn from the sick; and when all other sources failed, he repaired to the dead-house and satisfied his frightful appetite on human flesh! At length a child of fourteen months old disappeared all at once, and suspicions falling on Tarrare, he also disappeared for four years, when he was recognized again in the civil hospital of Paris, where he ended his miserable career. Tarrare's voracity far exceeded that of the French prisoner taken in the Hoche last war, and whose gluttony is attested by the late Dr. Johnstone. Indeed Tarrare seems to have realized the fable of Erisichthon, who, according to the poet, devoured what would have supported a whole town—a whole people:

——— “Quod urbibus esse,
Quodque satis poterat populo.”—*Ovid. Met. Fab. 18.*

Dict. des Sciences Medicales: Art. CAS RARES.

FATAL EFFECTS OF HYDRO-CYANIC ACID.

In a case of phthisis, Hufeland prescribed eight drops of prussic acid in eight ounces of water and two ounces of syrup, of which mixture the patient took a table spoonful every two

hours. Scarcely was the second spoonful taken, when all the symptoms of paralysis of the lungs supervened, and the patient died in about six hours. In a second case, a negro, at the commencement of a phthisical affection, had three spoonfuls a day of a mixture of two drachms of prussic acid in eight ounces of water. On the second day, he became very weak; on the third, still more so; and on the fourth he died, with all the symptoms of a total loss of sensibility. M. Hufeland thinks that these two cases ought rather to put practitioners on their guard than deter them from using this powerful medicine. He promises a work in a short time, in which he will give the result of his observations and experiments with the acid for two years; stating its advantages and disadvantages in the treatment of various diseases.—*Journal der praktischen Heilkunde.*

SIR CHRISTOPHER PEGGE.

The Regius Professor of Physic at the University of Oxford died lately in that city. He was a man much esteemed, though the honours of knighthood, which he enjoyed, were sometimes the theme of College jest. We remember one instance: when it was asserted that Sir Christopher was absolutely taken ill in consequence of chagrin at his tailor, *the mayor*, being raised

to the same dignity on presenting a loyal address. Some one asked, "Why, what is the matter with Sir Christopher Pegge?" To which a wit replied, "Oh, sir, he is quite sick of the (*K*) *night mare*!" Dr. Kidd is his successor,

DISCOLOURATION OF THE SKIN IN YELLOW FEVER.

M. A. Desmoulins has laid before the Institute a paper, on this subject, in which he has come to the following important conclusions:—

1st. That there is not in yellow fever any increased secretion of bile. 2d. That both the black coloured substances vomited and evacuated per anum, are exhalations from the coats of the intestines. 3d. That the yellow colour of the skin takes its rise from an elaboration of the blood, in the corpus mucosum of the skin, in which a sanguineous congestion is established by a determination, simultaneous with, and analogous to, that which produces the hæmorrhage from the mucus membrane of the intestines. 4. That the more dense structure of the cutis is the only reason why hæmorrhage does not take place from it. 5th. That the yellow tinge of the skin is merely a species of ecchymosis. 6th. In a word, that the yellow fever is nothing else than a determination of blood to the skin and mucus membranes, the effects of which are

diversified on these surfaces by the different degrees of the intensity of the determination combined with the unequal permeability of the membranes.

These different propositions are supported by a number of ingenious, and, in many cases, conclusive arguments, of which our limits will only admit an outline. In several cases where the black vomit had occurred, the stomach, after death, was found filled with the same matter, while the pylorus was entirely obstructed by schirrus, proving that water could not come from the liver; nay, Dr. Firth discovered this dark substance completely formed in the arteries of the stomach. Authenrieth, and several others, have observed the serum to be yellow in diseases free from any biliary complication; in the bodies of children, who were born with the yellow gum, no indications of hepatic disease could be discovered; nor, in a case of this kind, examined by M. Lassaigne, could the least trace of bile, or of any of its elements, be found either in the serum or the fibrine, or in the coloured particles of the blood. Some old men have become yellow, and yet enjoyed good health; and some nations have a permanent yellow tinge. This colour cannot, therefore, in all cases be the effect of bile; and, in the yellow fever, is most probably owing to the

elaboration of the blood in the corpus mucosum Malpighi.

In conclusion, M. Desmoulins thinks he can perceive a conformity of the symptoms of yellow fever with those in the diseases produced in dogs, in the experiments of M. Gaspard, by the transmission into their veins of the foetid juice of fermented cabbages. This resemblance he traces still farther, viz. to the symptoms on dissection, and from thence is led to deduce a similarity of origin in both diseases, namely, the introduction of putrid substances into the mass of blood. This analogy of symptoms and origin, of course, extends not only to yellow fever, but to typhus, to intermittents from malaria, and to all diseases supposed to take their origin from putrid exhalations.

Magendie's Journ. de Physiologie.

PECULIAR IDIOSYNCRACY.

A gentleman is now living in Paris, in the 50th year of his age, whose intellectual faculties are of the first order, and who is intimately conversant in every species of literature. His style is so elegant that he is the delight of his readers, while his critical acumen is dreaded by every author of mediocrity, whose works come under his censorial lash. His person is tall and meagre, his complexion pale and

bilious. He may be said to sleep none—at least, he does not sleep more than a quarter of an hour in the course of the night. When he sleeps four or five hours, it is the certain forerunner of a fit of sickness, which never fails to assail him in the course of twenty-four hours after this unusual drowsiness. He never passes a stool oftener than once in twenty-five or thirty days, and that by the aid of glysters. Purgatives have no effect on the stomach or bowels; his excrements are like little stones, in the form of sheep or deer's dung. He has no appetite, and eats very little. When ill, he does not eat any thing for a month together, living entirely on drink. He takes great exercise, walking sometimes above three hundred miles, almost without resting; and it is at these times that he enjoys the best health. He is highly irascible on the least contradiction, but the goodness of his heart always remains.

Dict. des Sciences Medicales.

ACCOUCHEMENTS EXTRAORDINAIRES.

In the memoirs of the Royal Academy of Sciences in France, for 1709, we find a butcher's wife, of Aix, lying-in of nine children.

According to Macedo, the Portuguese are not slack in obeying the divine injunction—"increase and multiply;" Blanca de Rocha,

the wife of Rodrigo Monteno, had fourteen children at a birth, who were all baptized. Maria Marcella had seven at a birth, who all entered the church, an ungrateful return to such a mother, since they were condemned to celibacy.

In Captain Tombe's *Voyages aux Indes Orientales*, tom. 2, p. 45, we find an old Chinese chief of Bangelt telling him, that, "*one of his wives was then pregnant of her sixty-first child, of which twenty-nine were dead, and thirty-one living!*"

Petrus Borellus, in his second century of observations, tells us, that, in the year 1650, the lady of the then Lord Darre produced, at one birth, eight perfect children.

These are marvellous instances of fecundity; but the largest in point of number, is that of the Countess of Henneberg, recorded upon a marble tablet, in the church of Lansdunen, near Leyden, in Holland.

These two verses are engraven at top—

En tibi monstrosum nimis, et memorabile factum,
Quale nec à mundi conditione datum.

After which follows a prose account of the miracle, for such it is in truth; and ought to have the same credence given to it as other miracles.

Margaret, the wife of Hennam, Earl of Henneberg, and daughter of Florence, the fourth Earl of Holland and Zealand, sister of William, King of Rome, and afterwards Cæsar, or governor of the empire, and of Alithea, Countess of Henault, whose uncle was the Bishop of Utrecht, and cousin to the Duke of Brabant, and the Earl of Thuringia, &c. This noble countess, being about forty years of age, upon Easter day, and about nine o'clock, in the year of our Lord 1276, was brought to bed of 365 children, all which were baptized in two brazen basins, by Guido, the suffragan of Utrecht: the males, how many soever there were of them, were christened by the name of John; the daughters were all named Elizabeth; who all, together with their mother, died the same day, and, with their mother, lie buried in this church of Landunen. This happened by means of a poor woman, who carried in her arms two children, who were twins, and both of them males, which the countess admiring, said that she could not have them by one father, and so shook her off in contempt and scorn. Whereupon this poor woman, being much perplexed in her mind, presently prayed to God, to send her as many children as there were days in the whole year: which thing, beside the course of nature, in a stupendous and wonderful manner,

came to pass, as it is briefly set down and declared in this table, for perpetual memory, testified as well by ancient manuscripts, as by many printed chronicles. The Almighty and great God of heaven hereupon be feared, honoured, and praised, from this time forth evermore. Amen."

WARM BATH.

The history of the warm-bath furnishes us with another curious instance of the vicissitudes to which the reputation of our valuable resources are so uniformly exposed: that, in short, which for so many ages was esteemed the greatest luxury in health, so that the prohibition of the bath was numbered among those to which certain priestesses were bound by the rigid rules of their order; and it was also considered as the most efficacious remedy in diseases, fell into total disrepute in the reign of Augustus, for no other reason than because Antonius Musa had cured the emperor of a dangerous malady by the use of the cold-bath. The coldest water, therefore, was recommended on every occasion. This practice, however, was but of short duration; the popularity of the cold-bath soon lost all its premature and precocious popularity; for, though it had restored the emperor to health, it, shortly afterwards,

killed his nephew and son-in-law, Marcellus ; an event which, at once, deprived the remedy of its credit, and the physician of his popularity.

CUSTOMS AND SALARIES OF PHYSICIANS
BEFORE THE CHRISTIAN ERA.

Boerhaave takes notice that, before there were any professed physicians, it was the custom among the ancient Egyptians, when any one was sick, to enquire of neighbours and passengers if they knew any proper remedies for the patient. But ever since the study of physic has been a profession, it has been both honourable and lucrative. The customary yearly salary, which princes paid their physicians, about the time of Christ's birth, was 250 sester tia, or above 2018*l.* sterling. Stertenius complained, that he had only a salary of 500 sester tia, or 4036*l.* 9*s.* 2*d.* sterling, when he had, by his private practice, 600 sester tia, or 4843*l.* 15*s.* *

RUSSIAN SURGERY.

It is proper to give a just tribute to skill in science whenever and wherever it occurs. We first turn to Russia.—“ A young Russian nobleman, of the name of Buterline, was, in a skir-

* Vide Dr. Arbuthnot's book on Coin, and Mr. William Smith's book of Remarks on the same subject, p. 226.

mish with the Tartars, wounded so cruelly, that a portion of the scalp, scull and all, was carried away by a stroke of the sabre. The surgeon having killed a dog, cut out a portion of his scull, corresponding with that which, in this nobleman, had been cut off with the sabre, nitched it into the wound, and achieved a perfect cure. The nobleman, exulting in this miraculous operation, told it to his friends, and his friends told it to the priests, and the priests told it to the archbishop of Moscow, and the archbishop of Moscow put him under the ban of the church, from which he was driven forth, for having this fragment of a bestial body united with his, and banished from the assemblies of the faithful all over the Russian empire, so long as the said piece of dog's scull remained united and joined into the head of a Christian man."—(*John Bell's Principles of Surgery*, vol. 2, p. 332.) It is proper to add, that the offending part was afterwards removed, and the sentence of excommunication revoked.

Sir Robert Wilson, in his pamphlet on the "Composition of the Russian Army," p. 53, speaking of wounded men having their wounds dressed on the field of battle, adds, "It must also be stated, that the care of grievously-wounded men, so as to be disabled from future service, has never, till lately, *been in the policy*

of the Russian government; for the finances of empire did not admit of this burthen; and, even at Friedland, it was remarked, by an officer of high rank, and of most humane character, that a cannon-ball was the best doctor for men without limbs."

AN EXOTIC.

An astonishing surgical operation was lately performed with success in the hospital of St. Louis, at Paris. A peasant of the neighbourhood of La Fere, was persuaded that about five years ago he had swallowed with his food some reptile, which, in an inexplicable manner, still lived, as he affirmed, in his stomach. The physicians employed various prescriptions without effect. Tortured by excruciating pains, the unhappy man resolved to go to Paris, to be opened; which operation was in fact performed by making an incision just below the region of the heart, when it was ascertained that his conjecture was well founded. As soon as the animal perceived more air than it was accustomed to, it shewed itself at the end of the incision, but immediately drew back; when one of the assistants put his finger into the wound, and drew out a snake two feet and a half in length, and eighteen lines in circumference. It lived sixty hours. The patient

felt great relief, and is in a situation which gives no reason to apprehend any bad consequences!!—*Foreign Journal*.

PROFESSIONAL LAW WITH FORENSIC
MEDICINE.

The junction of technical law with subjects peculiar to the medical profession, in the voluminous and expensive work of Dr. Paris and Mr. Fonblanque, has given rise to some discussion about its utility. There can be no question about its tending to enlarge the sphere of knowledge, and complete the relation of facts and principles; but, whether it is at all necessary, except as a matter of literary or curious inquiry, for a medical man to know the technicalities of law, we think is satisfactorily answered by Dr. Smith.

In the Courts of Great Britain, he justly says, the physician appears, for the most part, in the simple capacity of a witness. He is generally examined *viva voce*, either as to his knowledge of a particular event, or his opinion on a fact that may be submitted to him; and to this exposure every member of the profession is equally liable. He is required to prepare himself by no course of study foreign to that of his proper profession; and to observe no formalities but those of prudence and decorum.

Juridical disputation, and legal casuistry, can hardly combine with medical reasoning, or illustrate the laws of our physical economy. It is the *prudentiæ medicinæ*, rather than the *prudentiæ juris*, that we are bound to cultivate, even with a view to forensic application.

JOHN OPORINUS.

Oporinus was, for some time, a servant and amanuensis to the famous Paracelsus. He was a person of much learning, well skilled in the Greek and Latin tongues; and, being possessed with the vain expectation of attaining Paracelsus's secrets, left his own family and travelled about with him two whole years, without learning any one thing; till, wearied out, he grew wise, and quitting Paracelsus returned to Basil. It happened, one evening, that Paracelsus was called to visit a countryman dangerously ill, near Colmar, in Alsatia; but, being set in for a drinking-bout, with ordinary company, he deferred visiting the patient till next morning; when entering the house, with a furious look, Paracelsus asked if the sick person had taken any physic? intending to administer some of his laudanum. The bystanders answered, he had taken nothing but the sacrament, being at the point of death. At this, Paracelsus, in a rage, replied, if he

has had recourse to another physician, he has no occasion for me; and ran immediately out of doors. Oporinus, struck with this piece of impiety, bid Paracelsus the last adieu; fearing the barbarity of his otherwise loved master should some time fall on his own head.—s.

MEDICAL SCIENCE DURING THE REIGN OF JAMES I.

During the reign of this monarch, medical science was in a state of progressive, but not rapid improvement. It was reserved for the next reign to display the full lustre of Harvey's career. The principal physicians of the present period were Richard Bannister, Mathew Gwinne, Philemon Holland, Theodore Goulston, Edward Jorden, Sir Theodore de Mayerne, Robert Fludd, Thomas Winston, and Tobias Venner.

ACCOUCHEMENT OF GENTLEMEN.

This is no fable, as we shall presently show: to be sure, the more important part, viz. the delivery, is really performed by ladies; but the posthumous ceremonial of lying-in, of being attended, the caudle-administering, &c. &c. are *performed* by gentlemen. We have Paul Colombes' (a Frenchman, and some time librarian at Lambeth-palace here) authority, in stating

that, at Bearne, a province of France, when the wife was brought to bed, the woman arose, and her husband succeeded to her place, and to all the ceremonies attending that situation. "I imagine, (he says,) that the people of Bearne received this custom from the Spaniards, of whom Strabo, in his 3d book of Geography, p. 114, relates the same usage." The same ridiculous farce was acted among the Tiberians, (a people of Themiscyra, in Cappadocia; Pliny, 6, 4, et Dionysius, 766,) according to Nymphodorus, in his Scholia on Apollonius Rhodius, Book 2; and among the Tartars, as Marco Paulo, the Venetian, relates, Book 2, Chap. 41, whose voyages are no longer considered fabulous. Besides, all travellers in America agree in speaking of this ridiculous custom prevailing in the country of Darien. When a woman was safely delivered, she soon rose to attend to the affairs of the household; while the husband himself went to bed, and the neighbours hastened to visit, and to *comfort* him.—Diodorus Siculus, in the 14th chapter of his 5th Book, affirms, that the Corsican women, as soon as delivered, quitted their beds to their husbands, who lay in their stead.

This practice of gentlemen lying in bed, instead of their ladies, is attended, however, by certain fasts and mortifications, by which

they are self-inflicted; every English lady will rejoice to hear *that*.—Again, it appears, according to M. De Pauw and M. Fischer, among the old Spaniards, Corsicans, and some Mongolian races that Marco Paulo met with, and also at Bearne, it was the practice for husbands to take to bed, instead of their wives, and to be attended accordingly. Some authors think that this practice arose from a superstitious idea, that it would have a beneficial effect on the life of the child.

LUNAR INFLUENCE.

Vertigo, which is connected with apoplexy, is obedient to the influence of the moon, as well as the paroxysms of phrenzy to which maniacs are liable. Mead asserts, that the changes of the moon have considerable influence on hydrophobia, and gives several examples of persons bitten by mad dogs, who were always attacked with uneasy feelings about the full of the moon. Tulpius and Piso give examples of partial paralysis, the attacks of which were coincident with the lunar phases.

Every body is aware of the connection of the sexual evacuations with the lunar influence. A careful observer may remark, that females of the human species may be divided into two great classes; one of which alters at the full,

and the other at the change of the moon. There are, indeed, some exceptions. In countries nearer the equator, these evacuations are more profuse than towards the poles. But it is known that the influence of the moon is very powerful at the equator, and gradually subsides on approaching the poles. This fact did not escape Hippocrates, and he makes use of it to explain the sterility of the women of Scythia. The examples of the Malabar women may be cited in proof; they are generally fit to become mothers at twelve years of age; and, in fact, frequently have children at that early period of their lives.

Kirkland has observed, that parturition in women, as well as in the females of all animals, takes place when the moon is south; that scores of sheep will then bring forth in an hour: and if labour does not take place in women about that period, the pains gradually subside, and parturition does not take place till the lapse of twenty-four hours.

The women of Angola have a ridiculous custom of exposing their *derrières* to the new moon, considering themselves as being under her special protection.

Are not our own sex also occasionally affected with periodical hæmorrhages connected with the phases of the moon? Mead knew a young

man of delicate habit, who brought on spitting of blood, by making an effort beyond his strength, which, during eighteen months, regularly recurred with the full moon.—Two remarkable cases are given in the Philosophical Transactions, (Nos. 171 and 272.) The first is that of a young man, who, from his childhood till the 25th year of his age, discharged a small quantity of blood from the corner of the thumbnail of his left hand every time the moon came to its full. The other is the case of an Irishman, who, from the 53d to the 55th year of his age, had a periodical evacuation of blood from the extremity of the forefinger of his right hand.

Baglivi states the case of a student at Rome, who had a fistulous ulcer of the abdomen, which appeared to have some connection with the colon; and discharged so abundantly on the increase, and so little on the decrease of the moon, that it served him as a perfect index of the periods and quadratures of that planet. Nephritic attacks frequently follow the course of lunar attraction. Tulpius relates that Mr. Ainsworth, an English clergyman at Amsterdam, constantly suffered from an attack of gravel, accompanied with suppression of urine at the full of the moon, which continued till she had made some progress in waning.

Van Helmont mentions this influence of the

moon on asthma; and Sir John Floyer, who, from being personally afflicted with this disease, had more occasion to attend to its phenomena than most people, asserts that paroxysms of asthma are always most severe at certain periods of the moon, and commonly recur with the change.

Still more extraordinary effects are attributed to the lunar influence. The celebrated Kerckringius, in his Anatomical Observations, mentions the case of a young lady who became plump and handsome with the increase of the moon, but who completely changed with the decrease of that planet. About the change she became so disfigured and haggard, that she secluded herself from all society for some days. Mead also refers to a lady whose countenance always developed itself with the increase of the moon, so that the eclat of her charms depended upon that planet.

Since these observations were written, the subject of solunar influence has been treated at great length, and with much ingenuity, by Dr. Balfour.

DR. THEODORE GOULSTON

Displayed his zeal, for the improvement of the science of medicine, by instituting, in the reign of King James I., an annual pathological

lecture, within the College of Physicians. "If institutions of this nature," says Dr. Aikin, "have by the more improved state of medical education become less necessary, we are not the less obliged to those who founded them at a time they were more wanted." Dr. Goulston, likewise, published a Latin version of some of the works of Galen, accompanied with critical annotations. Like Dr. Gwinne, he was a proficient in classical learning, as appeared from his translation of Aristotle's Rhetoric and Poetics.

EXTRAORDINARY PATHOLOGICAL PHENOMENON.

Simorre (M. Percy relates the case) was born at Mirepoix in 1752. At the age of 15 he entered the army, and served twenty-one years in the regiment de Berry, where he arrived at the rank of captain. He had made the three campaigns of Corsica; and it was there that the young Simorre contracted the germ of his future fatal malady. He had bivouacked a long time on the marshy banks of a river, where the atmosphere was constantly obscured by vapours; when he, all at once, was seized with lancinating pains in the great toes and ankles. These had no sooner ceased, than he was afflicted with a severe ophthalmia, which, however, gave way in a short time. For several

years the same succession of symptoms took place every spring, and without giving way to any medicine, terminated the same way. In course of time there was no interval of health; as soon as the ophthalmia ceased the pains commenced, and *vice versâ*. The pains spread from the feet to the knees, and even to the hips; while his eye-sight became daily weaker. In 1785, Simorre could not walk without an assistant, who also served as a guide. The year following, every joint was affected synchronously, and ankylosis made alarming progress through all the articulations. He was obliged to leave the service and retire to Metz. For a long time he bore up courageously against the ravages of disease: he felt his limbs becoming immoveable; yet, deprived of the use of several members, he braved the most exquisite suffering in attempts at motion! The arms and head shared the same fate as the feet and knees. The whole body was rendered motionless. The lower jaw submitted to the universal immobility! Then Simorre, according to his own expression was only a living corpse! Happy, says M. Percy, had been poor Simorre, if insensibility had been granted this living corpse! But far from enjoying this sad repose, Simorre, who had already suffered so much, continued still the victim of the most exquisite

tortures ! He lay four months on a sofa, without being able to bear the removal to a bed. The attitude which he there preserved, has evidently determined that of the skeleton, as it now appears, because the various articulations then acquired a solidity that rendered them ever afterwards useless. This new change occasioned the unhappy Simorre the most horrible torments. The least motion, the most gentle touch, caused him to cry out with dreadful anguish. He never slept for one moment while on this sofa of sorrow ! At length he was moved into a bed ; but there he spent two years of misery without ever sleeping ! The moment that he attempted to close his eyes, every member was agitated with the most painful convulsions, on which opium had no effect. In 1792 his joints, which had become enormously enlarged, were quite unwieldy ; and the articulating extremities of the bones were so increased in volume as to approach each other, and leave no shaft ! From this time the excessive torments, which Simorre had borne with a firmness worthy of an ancient stoic, became much assuaged, and he could bear to be moved without experiencing much pain. He was lifted off the bed once a month, like a rigid corpse, but care was taken not to touch the *mould*, as it were, in which he lay, otherwise he suffered tortures.

in forming a new one. Though freed from those excruciating torments which he had formerly experienced, Simorre was still a sufferer. He never could sleep more than a quarter of an hour at a time; yet he blessed his stars that he was no worse, and amused himself with cheerful discourses and lively songs! During a great many years, he published an annual almanack of songs, composed by himself, and by the sale of which he supported himself in his state of misery! His ballads breathe the spirit of gaiety; and in them he often depicts himself in such a manner, as at the same moment to inspire mirth and commiseration!

Simorre had a good figure and a cheerful expressive countenance. His black and curled hair covered a large forehead, terminated by fine arched eyebrows. His nose was aquiline, his eyes sparkling. "This philosophical head (says M. Percy) contained the whole soul, the whole existence of Simorre!" This unfortunate officer terminated his career of earthly sufferings in 1802, aged 50 years.

Dict. de Sciences Med.

MYSTERIOUS OINTMENTS.

The chief source of the magical operations of the Mexican priests was an ointment composed of the fat of a variety of poisonous ani-

mals, and some other ingredients, as resin, soot, and particularly an herb possessing the mischievous power of deranging the intellects. To prepare this ointment, they collect a variety of venomous animals, which they burn before their idols. The cinders, beaten in a mortar with tobacco and the poisonous ingredients already mentioned, constitute this wonderful ointment, which they entitle the food or nourishment of the gods; by the use of this composition, they pretend to obtain an intercourse with the demons, to be able to cure all manner of diseases; and even to tame lions, bears, and other ferocious animals.

In the account given by the Abbé de la Port, of Ann Zinga, Queen of Angola, a barbarous and ferocious princess, he says, being persuaded by one of her Saggas, or priests, that he knew how to compose a wonderful ointment of the flesh and bones of a male child beaten together in a mortar, which would give great strength and even render a person invulnerable, she on one occasion assembled the people, and publicly slew a child two years old, which she had adopted; beat the body in a mortar together with a certain powder, thus composing a mysterious ointment; and, stripping herself quite naked, she anointed her body with this horrible composition.

Among other singular reptiles found in China, there is a species of lizard, termed "the dragon of the wall," because it can creep up the most polished walls; otherwise, "the palace guard," or "ladies' guard," because, as they think, it has the effect of preserving their chastity, which it thus effects:—in Navarette's collection of voyages, it is stated, that the Emperors of China are accustomed to rub the palms of the hands of their concubines with an ointment composed of the flesh of this lizard. The ointment imprints a mark, which is indelible while they continue chaste, but which vanishes the moment they are guilty of any breach of their honour. Perhaps it may contribute to the domestic tranquillity of married people in these western countries, that our lizards are destitute of any such virtue.

OF POPULAR MEDICINES, &c.

"Did Marcus say 'twas fact? then fact it is,
No proof so valid as a word of his."

Devotion to authority and established routine has always been the means of opposing the progress of reason, the advancement of natural truth, and the prosecution of new discoveries; whilst, with effects no less baneful, it has perpetuated many of the most stupendous errors.

To give currency to some inactive substance,

as possessing extraordinary, nay wonderful medicinal properties, requires only the sanction of a few great names; and, when established upon such a basis, ingenuity, argument, and even experiment, may open their impotent batteries. In this manner have all the *nostra* and patent-medicines got into repute that ever were held in any estimation. And the same devotion to authority, which induces us to retain an accustomed remedy, upon the bare assertion and presumption, either of ignorance or partiality, will, in like manner, oppose the introduction of a novel practice with asperity; unless, indeed, it be supported by authorities of still greater weight and consideration.

DR. EDWARD JORDEN

Was held in great reputation, during the reign of the pedantic James, for literature and abilities. He had a natural propensity to the studies of chemistry and mineralogy; and these were the foundation of the fame he acquired by his principal work a "Treatise on Baths and Mineral Waters." This is a work of considerable learning and ingenuity, and is written in a clear and judicious method. Though much of it is extracted from other authors, Dr. Jorden has not failed to add many things, which are peculiarly his own.

INFLUENCE OF THE IMAGINATION OVER THE
FACULTIES OF BODY AND MIND.

“ A long intense passion on one object,” observes an old navy-surgeon,* “ whether of pride, love, anger, fear, or envy, we see have brought on some universal tremors; on others convulsions, madness, melaucholy, consumption, hectic, or such a chronical disorder as has wasted their flesh or their strength, as certainly as the taking in of any poisonous drugs would have done. Any thing frightful, sudden, and surprising, upon soft timorous natures, not only shews itself in the countenance, but produces, sometimes, very troublesome consequences; for instance, a parliamentary fright will make even grown men bewray themselves, scare them out of their wits, and turn the hair grey. Surprise removes the hooping-cough; looking from precipices, or seeing wheels turn swiftly, gives giddiness and other symptoms; shall then these little accidents, or the passions, (from caprice or human weakness perhaps) produce those effects, and not be able to do any thing by amulets? No, as the spirits, in many cases, resort in plenty, we find, where the fancy determines, giving joy and gladness to the heart, strength and fleetness

* John Atkins, author of the Navy-Surgeon, 1742.

to the limbs, lust or flagrancy to the eyes, palpitation and priapism; so amulets, under strong imagination, are carried, with more force, to a distempered part; and, under these circumstances, its natural powers exert better to a discussion.

“The cures compassed in this manner are not more admirable than many of the distempers themselves. Who can apprehend by what impenetrable method the bite of a mad-dog* or tarantula should produce their symptoms? The touch of the torpedo, numbness? Or a woman impress the marks of her longings and her frights on a foetus? If they are allowed to do these, doubtless they may the other; and, not by miracles, which Spinoza denies the possibility of, but by natural and regular causes, though inscrutable to us.

“The best way, therefore, in using amulets, must be in squaring them to the imagination of patients; let the newness and the surprise exceed the invention, and keep up the humours by a long roll of cures and vouchers; by these, and such means, many distempers, especially

* Turner, in his Collection of Cases, p. 406, gives one of a woman who died hydrophobical from a mad-dog biting her gown; and of a young man who died raving mad, from the scratch of a cat, four years after the accident.

of women, *that are ill all over, or know not what they ail*, have been cured, I am apt to think, more by a fancy to the physician than his prescription, which hangs on the file like an amulet. Quacks, again, according to their boldness and way of addressing (velvet and infallibility particularly) command success by striking the fancies of an audience. If a few, more sensible than the rest, see the doctor's miscarriages, and are not easily gulled at first sight, yet, when they see a man is never ashamed, in time pimp in to his assistance."

Our inability, upon all occasions, to appreciate the efforts of nature, in the cure of disease, must always render our notions, with respect to the powers of art, liable to numerous errors and multiplied deceptions. Nothing is more natural, and, at the same time, more erroneous, than to attribute the cure of a disease to the last medicine that had been employed; the advocates of amulets and charms have ever been thus enabled to appeal to the testimony of what they are pleased to call experience, in justification of their superstitions; and cases which, in truth, ought to have been considered lucky escapes, have been triumphantly puffed off as skilful cures; and thus have medicines and practitioners alike acquired unmerited praise or unjust censure.

DR. RICHARD BANNISTER,

Who lived in the reign of James I., chiefly excelled in the knowledge and cure of the diseases of the eyes. The remarks which he made, in a treatise upon the subject, are the result of much experience, and shew him to have been a good operator, and a careful observer.

A WOMAN THAT COULD NOT BE HANGED.

Ex * rotulis patentibus de anno regni regis Henrici tertii
48°. Membr. 5.

Rex omnibus, &c. salutem. Quia Jnetta de Balsham pro receptamento latronum ei imposito nuper per considerationem curie nostre suspendio adjudicata, et ab hora nona diei lune usque post ortum solis diei martis sequen: suspensa, viva evasit, sicut ex testimonio fide dignorum accipimas. Nos, divinæ charitatis intuitu, pardonavimus eidem Jnetta sectam pacis nostre que ad nos perfinet pro receptamento predicto et firmam pacem nostram ei inde concedimus. In cujus, &c. Teste Rege apud Cantaur. xvi°, die Augusti.

Convenit cum recordo.

LAUR. HALSTED, Deput. Algern. May. mil.

* From the patent-rolls of the 48th year of the reign of King Henry the Third. Skin 5.

The King to all, &c. greeting. Whereas, Jnetta Balsham, for the receiving of thieves, proved upon her, was lately judged, by the consideration of our court, to be hanged, and being hung, remained alive from the ninth

Dr. Plot, in his Natural History of Staffordshire, quotes this pardon, granted by Henry III. to Jnetta Balsham, and remarks, that possibly "she could not be hanged, upon account that the larynx, or upper part of her wind-pipe, was turned to bone, as Fallopius, (*Oper. tom. 1, Obs. Anat. tract. 6*) tells us he has sometimes found it, which possibly might be so strong, that the weight of her body could not compress it, as it happened in the case of a Swiss, who, as I am told, by the Rev. Mr. Obadiah Walker, Master of University College, was attempted to be hanged no less than thirteen times, yet lived notwithstanding, by the benefit of his wind-pipe, that, after his death, was found to have turned to a bone; which yet is still wonderful, since the circulation of the blood must be stopt, however, unless his veins and arteries were likewise turned to bone, or the rope not slipt close.

Potts' Staffordshire, p. 292.

hour on Monday, until after the rising of the sun on the following Tuesday, as has been related to us by persons worthy of credit. We, excited by divine mercy, pardon the said Jnetta, the suit of our peace, which appertains to us for the aforesaid reception, and, therefore, concede to her our firm peace. In testimony of which, &c. Witness the King, at Canterbury, this 16th day of August.

Agrees with the record,

LAUR. HALSTED, Deputy to Sir Algern. May.

HUNTERIAN MUSEUM.

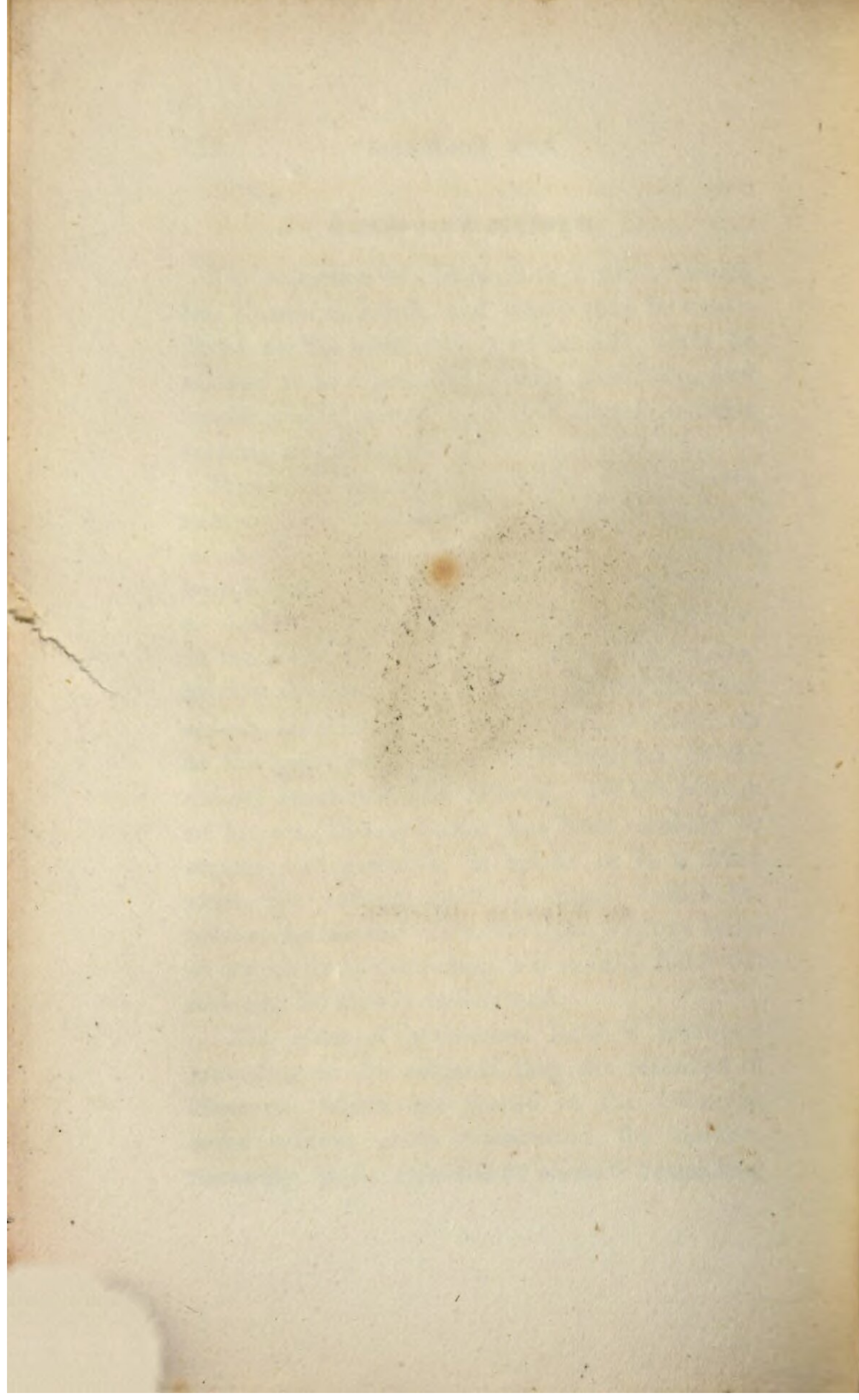
The collection of comparative anatomy which Mr. Hunter has left, and which may be considered as the great object of his life, must be allowed to be a proof of talents, assiduity, and labour which cannot be contemplated without surprise and admiration.

It remains an unequivocal test of his perseverance and abilities, and an honour to the country in whose schools he was educated, and by the patronage of which he was enabled, on so extensive a plan, to carry on his pursuits. In this collection we find an attempt to expose to view the gradations of nature, from the most simple state in which life is found to exist, up to the most perfect and most complex of the animal creation—man himself. By the powers of his art, this collector has been enabled to expose and preserve, in spirits or in a dried state, the different parts of animal bodies intended for similar uses, that the various links of the chain of perfection are readily followed, and may be clearly understood.

This class of anatomical facts is arranged according to the subjects they are intended to illustrate, which are placed in the following order:—First, parts constructed for motion. Secondly, parts essential to animals respecting



DR WILLIAM HUNTER.



their own internal economy. Thirdly, parts superadded for purposes connected with external objects. Fourthly, parts for the propagation of the species and maintenance or support of the young.

The first class exhibits the sap of vegetables and blood of animals, from which fluids all the different parts of the vegetable and animal creation are formed, supported, and increased. These fluids being more and more compounded, as the vegetables and animals become more perfect, are coagulated, and form a regular series. The sap of many plants do not coagulate spontaneously, but is made to undergo this change by adding the extract of Goulard, in this respect differing from water: the sap of such plants is considered the most simple. In the onion there is a spontaneous coagulation. In insects, the blood coagulates, but is without colour: in the amphibia, colour is super-added. The moving powers of animals, from the simple straight muscle to the most complicated structure of that organ, with the different applications of elastic tegument, form a second series. The growth, horn, bone, and shell, come next in order; and the joints, which admit of their moving readily on one another, finish this subject.

The second class begins with those animals of the hydatid kind, which receive nourishment,

like vegetables, from their external surface, having no mouth. Then follow those which are simply a bag or stomach, with one opening, as the polypus, having no organs of generation, as every part of the bag is endowed with that power; but in the leech, the structure becomes more complex; for, although the animal is composed of a bag, with only one opening, the organs of generation, brain, and nerves, are superadded; and thence a gradual series is continued to those animals in which the stomach forms only a distinct part of the animal for the purpose of digestion. The stomachs themselves are also arranged in the order of their simplicity, &c.

After the stomachs are the different appearances of the intestinal canal, which exhibit almost an infinite variety in the structure of their internal surface, from which the aliment is absorbed, &c. To these are added, the glands connected with the intestines, as the liver, pancreas, and spleen, which may be properly considered as appendages.

After digestion follows the system of the absorbing vessels, the simplest being the roots of plants, after which are the lymphatic and lacteal vessels of different animals, &c.

The natural order, in following the course of the aliment from the stomach as a guide, leads

from the absorbents to the heart; which, in the caterpillar, is a simple canal or artery, running along the middle of the back of the animal, admitting of undulation of the blood: from this simple structure it becomes, in different animals, by small additions, more and more complex, till it arrives at the degree of perfection which is displayed in the organization of the human heart. These are followed by the different structures of valves in the arteries and veins, and the coats of these vessels. Then the lungs are shewn in all their gradations, from the simple vascular lining of the egg-shell, which serves as lungs for the chicken, to those of the more perfect animals. In one instance, viz. that of the syren, both gills and lungs in the same animals, &c.

The third class takes up the most simple state of the brain, which is, in the leech, a single nerve with ramifications. In the snail the brain forms a circular nerve, through the middle of which passes the œsophagus. The insect-brain has a more compact form. In this manner the brain is traced until it becomes the large complex organ found in the elephant, and in the human subject. The coverings of the brain, and the ganglions and peculiarities of the nerves, are annexed. The organs of sense are arranged

in the order of their simplicity, beginning with that of touch, &c.

After the brain and senses, are arranged the cellular membrane and animal oils, which are followed by the external coverings. These are divided into the different kinds, as hair, feathers, scales, &c. Added to these are the parts peculiar to different animals, for offence and defence, as spurs, hoofs, horns, stings, and also electric organs. Next follow, such peculiar structures as occur in certain tribes of animals, as the air-bladders in fish, &c.

The fourth class begins with those animals which have no distinct organ allotted for generation, that power being diffused over the whole animal; in these the young grow out of the old, as in the coral and polypi; and next in order come the hermaphrodite organs, both of plants and of animals. The male organs are then taken up in distinct subjects, &c.; after which, the female organs are exhibited, in the maiden state, in every class of animals, &c.; to which are added, the peculiarities respecting the hymen, &c. The eggs of insects follow next, with their changes, particularly the silk-worm. The arrangement then proceeds to the formation and incubation of the egg of the fowl, as the process of foetation in the quadruped, with their various peculiarities, &c.

There are, also, a considerable number of valuable drawings in this collection, to shew the progress of different processes in the animal economy, together with such appearances as are not capable of being preserved, &c. &c.

This sketch will furnish but a very inadequate idea of the system which is comprehended in Mr. Hunter's collection. It also includes a very large series of whole animals, in spirits, arranged according to their internal structure; and many of the most rare specimens of preserved animals in this country, as the cameleopardos, guanico, hippopotamus, tapir, argus pheasant, &c. &c.

There is, besides, a series of skulls of different animals, to shew their peculiarities, and skeletons of almost every known species of animals. There is a large collection of shells and insects; a prodigious number of calculi of different sorts, from the urinary and gall-bladders, the stomach, and intestinal canal. There are, likewise, the most uncommon deviations from the natural structure, both in man and in other animals, preserved in spirits or in a dried state. The most extraordinary specimens of this kind are a double human uterus, one of the parts pregnant; and a double human skull perfectly formed, the one upon the top of the other. To make this collection more complete, in every subject

connected with comparative anatomy, is added one of the largest and most select collections of extraneous fossils that can be seen in this country.

DR. TOBIAS VENNER

Acquired great popular fame by a work "On the Right Way to a Long Life." It is a plain practical piece. His account of the several articles treated of is compiled, though without any quotations, from the current authors of the age. The rules and admonitions are trite; but the stile and manner of the treatise were well calculated to render it acceptable to common readers.

WATER DOCTORS.

Falstaff. Sirrah, you giant, what says the doctor to my water?

Page. He said, sir, the water itself was a good healthy water; but, for the party that owed (*owned*) it, he might have more diseases than he knew for.

This method of investigating diseases was once so much the fashion, that Linacre, the founder of the College of Physicians, formed a statute to restrain apothecaries from carrying the water of their patients to a doctor, and afterwards giving medicines in consequence of the opinions they received concerning it. This statute was followed, soon after, by another, which

forbade the doctors themselves to pronounce on any disorder, from such an uncertain diagnostic.

ENGLISH AND ITALIAN SCHOOLS OF MEDICINE.

In Dr. Clark's Italian defence of the Edinburgh school of Medicine, against the attack made on it by the celebrated Bolognese Professor Tommasini, he incidentally noticed, in this vindication of his *alma mater*, Tommasini's very imperfect acquaintance with the medical literature of this country. This insinuation of his defective knowledge seems to have considerably excited the personal and patriotic feelings of the professor, who forthwith published a reply to Dr. Clark. As might have been expected, he failed egregiously in the latter particular, and quite as much and more so in respect of the authors cited, as of those omitted by him. As, however, this pretended account of our medical literature, and the view of our medical doctrine and practice thence derived, presented the semblance, at least, of being founded in fact, Dr. Clark deemed it necessary once more to answer the Italian professor.

Dr. Clark readily concedes to Tommasini, that, in some respects, the Italian system of instruction is more favourable for the student, but that it is certainly less humane towards the

patient. The system of *lecturing* (for such it is) on the disease, in the presence of the patient, is, unquestionably, cruel and disgusting in the highest degree; and yet not so cruel either, some cases excepted. But were medical men better acquainted with the Latin language, which, to our disgrace, is less familiar with us than with many of our neighbours, so much so, that with professors, as well as students, it is almost truly become a *dead letter*, these inconveniences might be beneficially obviated, and clinical lectures become then deserving of the name.

“ I have myself, (says Dr. C.) heard this done at the bedside of a poor *consumptive* patient; and a friend of mine was lately present when the same practice was adopted in a case of *cancer uteri*; at the end of the exposition, the poor woman burst into a flood of tears.”

It has long been a common subject of complaint with the medical writers of this country, that their discoveries and improvements were overlooked or disregarded by continental authors, more especially the French, until such time as they had acquired a sort of right and title, by adoption, transformation, or intermarriage, to be considered as legitimate productions of their foster land. Then, indeed, they never failed to be introduced to the savans of their new country, with all the pride, pomp, and cir-

cumstance to which they were intrinsically and extrinsically entitled. It is true, that similar complaints were made, and still continue to be made, of us, on the other side of the channel; we think, however, (in all candour and honesty) with decidedly less reason on the part of our accusers. And we think the difference in this particular may be very simply and satisfactorily explained, without any illiberal or offensive reference to national character, by the mere fact of the languages of the countries alluded to, being much better and much more generally understood in England, than our language is on the continent; it is sufficiently certain that the French and Italian medical authors betray lamentable ignorance of our literature. A very striking, and indeed amusing, instance of this is now before us, in the Letter of Tommasini, one of the best-informed foreigners, be it remembered, to Dr. Clark. In his first Letter, Dr. C., as we have already remarked, expressed his opinion of his opponent's imperfect acquaintance with our best authors, naming several of them. Tommasini, in his reply, not only admits the full merit of the writers cited by Dr. C., but adds several others, equally meritorious, not cited by him; which shewed that Tommasini's materials were principally derived from our periodical journals; and

that he was either unable or unwilling to discriminate *between the crude effusions of the ignorance and conceit which fill those receptacles of all manner of trash, and the matured labours of learning and experience.*

In combating Tommasini's charge of *empiricism*, brought against our practical medicine, Dr. Clark has many just and forcible observations; among which we notice the following:—

“It is true, indeed, that in England we have no *general doctrine*—no grand and all explaining theory; not, indeed, because there exists any dislike to rational theory, but because there exists a firm conviction that the degree of our knowledge is at present too limited to authorise the formation of a theory capable of explaining the intimate nature of our various diseases, and still less of explaining the mode of action of the medicines employed in their cure.

“Although the term *diathesis* is not received in England in the same sense as in Italy, British practitioners are not, on this account, less desirous of distinguishing diseases according to their essential characters, or less diligent in their researches for their *true pathology*; nor are they backward in generalizing their observations founded on such researches, and in applying the results to practice—provided always, that these results are based on a faithful induction of facts. When, however, this basis is wanting, as I apprehend it must frequently be, to those who vaunt most of their theory, in this case, the English physician is not ashamed to return to empiricisms, which, however despised by modern theorists, we are obliged, nevertheless, humbly to confess to be, in the

arterial state of our knowledge, at once the best resource of the practitioner, and the best safe-guard of the patient against the pernicious consequences of theory. And here I beg to be understood as speaking, not of that blind empiricism which is the offspring of ignorance and presumption, but of that philosophical empiricism which is the result of observation and sound experience. At the same time, I am far from embracing the cause of empiricism. I admit its utility only when we are abandoned by the true light of pathology ; I am even ready to confess, that it has exercised, and still exercises an undue influence over the minds of many English practitioners. This, perhaps, may be justly considered as a natural consequence of the unsatisfactory results of all medical theories. That the better class, however, of British practitioners are influenced by a very different spirit, is sufficiently manifest from the works already quoted.

“ It is finally,” observed Dr. Clark, “ that the labours of the Italian physician are conducted with the view of supporting a doubtful theory ; those of the English, in the design of amassing materials, whence may eventually be composed a theory that will not pass away. If the English school is characterised by a spirit of extreme caution in the admission of facts, and by a philosophy, perhaps, too strict, in deducing general principles from these, the Italian school appears to me to be characterised by too great a facility in admitting facts, and too great a precipitancy in deducing consequences. Which of these effects is more hurtful to the student, I leave others to decide ; to me it appears, that the effect of the *former* is to excite, in the youthful mind, a love for observation, a commendable diligence and circumspection in the examination of facts, and a philosophic caution in drawing conclusions ;

and that of the *latter* rather to withdraw the attention from observation, and to supply the place of this with an overweaning confidence in theory."

Lettera del Dottore Giacomo Clark al Professore Giacomo Tommasini, intorno alla Letteratura Inglese, pp. 47, Roma, 1823.

DR. THOMAS MARRYAT.

Real or feigned, the doctor was, what is usually termed, an eccentric character. There are, doubtless, originals of this cast where the masterly hand of nature is so strongly marked as to leave no scruples, on the mind of the observer, of the actual existence of this innoxious, though frequently troublesome, "*genus mutabile mundi.*" The genuine eccentric is eccentric in all his motions. His greatest source of inquietude, if any thing of the kind such beings ever experience, is, that he cannot walk upon his head, to evince his natural antipathy against the *vultus ad sidera* of the human species.

It would seem that dame nature took particular delight in sporting with the persons of the learned. Pope was hump-backed; Goldsmith was bandy-legged; Dr. Johnson was a Russian-bear, both in manners and appearance; and Gibbon, the historian, was as ugly as a buck-horse. Dr. Marryat was, also, unable to boast of the charms of his person. In his disposition

he was, latterly, morose, with a bluntness in his manners bordering upon perfect rudeness, aping the manners, or rather ill manners, of our great lexicographer. He was, nevertheless, a pleasant companion when he chose to expand himself, but a perfect hedge-hog to strangers, and those whom he disliked.

Marryat's medical opinions, in many points, are not only very disputable, but, probably, unfounded; and his practice, in general, is of that bold and decisive nature, that some of his prescriptions* are much too drastic and powerful for common or indiscriminate use. His good fortune, in restoring to health some patients who had long been afflicted with some painful and dangerous maladies, acquired him a reputation which quickly enabled him to keep his carriage; but he was improvident, and made no provision for the infirmities which usually attend the *bon vivant*; and, in consequence, was, towards the close of his career, much reduced.

Few people require to be told, that a man's acquaintance, and even those who once called themselves *friends*, drop off, in exactly the same proportion as a man lessens in his abilities to entertain them. Thus it was with Dr. Marryat;

* See his "Art of Healing."

and he actually stuck a paper, in his own hand, upon the glass of the Bush coffee-house, enquiring, 'If any one remembered that there was such a person as Thomas Marryat?'—and informing them, that 'he still lived, or rather existed, in Horsfield-road.'

In the midst of his poverty he, nevertheless, strenuously and haughtily refused the assistance of some very near relatives, of the highest respectability, who would willingly have comforted his old age, if the pride of his spirit would have permitted them. He was a man of strict integrity, and was always punctual to the utmost of his abilities, when it was in his power. In his latter days, when he imagined his credit was bad, he applied to a Mr. A. and abruptly said, "You don't know me; but will you trust me with a bed to sleep upon?"—the reply was in the affirmative:—"well then," said he, "I shall pay you on such a day." Exactly at the appointed time, the doctor called, but not finding Mr. A. at home, he wrote a note, saying, "Why do you make me a liar? I called to pay you; send for your money this evening, or I will throw it into the street."

In his last illness a friend came to see him, to whose interrogatories, respecting his health, he replied, "I am very bad; but it is not worth your while to stay and see an old man die."

Afterwards, in the course of the conversation, he said, "the world supposes that I am an atheist, but I am not; I know and believe that there is an Almighty God who made me, and will not suffer me to perish, and, therefore, I am not afraid to die."

There is even some reason to think that, latterly, he became an Unitarian, though he was silent on that point; for his servant had frequently surprised him in deep meditation, over, what she considered to be, a cabinet of jewels, as he constantly shut it up when observed, but which, after his death, which happened on the 29th of May, 1792, upon examination was found to be a very fine edition of the New Testament, in Greek.

PETER LOWE AND JOHN WOODALL.

In the knowledge of surgery these were the two most noted persons of their time. Peter Lowe's "Discourse on Chirurgery," is a general treatise on the subject, as well operative as judicial, and was designed for the use of beginners. It is a copious, plain, and methodical work, full of references to ancient and modern authors; and, indeed, more founded on authority than observation. Far superior, in point of merit in his profession, was John Woodall. His tract on the Scurvy, whether for accuracy

in describing the disease, or judiciousness in the method of cure, has, perhaps, been scarcely since excelled. A variety of judicious remarks and directions, concerning medicines, diet, and external applications, occur in the work, which appear evidently to be the result of experience and observation, and are, in a great measure, confirmed by modern practice. Another piece of Mr. Woodall's, "A Treatise on Gangrene and Sphacelus," is entitled to particular consideration, on account of an important innovation, which it introduced, with respect to amputation. This was, amputation in the mortified, instead of the sound part; a practice not new, indeed, but at that time universally diffused. He threw out, likewise, the first hint in favour of amputating as low as the ankle in diseases of the foot. In short, Mr. Woodall has a claim to the most honourable distinction in the surgical history of his period.

A SURGICAL ESSAY.

A few years ago, one of the dressers in St. Thomas's hospital, wished very much to perform an operation; and he turned his attention to the surgery boy, who had a bad leg, and said to him, one day, "Abraham, I should like to cut off your leg."—"Would you, indeed," said Abraham, "but I should not like it."—

“ Oh,” said the dresser, “ it will never be of any use to you in its present state, and, therefore, you had better be without it. I will take a lodging for you; I will give you some money, and you shall be well attended.” The boy’s scruples were at length overcome—he took the money, went to a lodging, all was arranged, and the operator began; but, finding a great discharge of blood, he cried out to his assistant “ Screw the tourniquet tighter.” He obeyed; but, in doing so, the screw broke; and at this unforeseen accident, the dresser lost all presence of mind; he jumped about the room, then ran to the sufferer, and vainly endeavoured to stop the effusion of blood by compressing the wound with his hand; his sleeve became filled with blood, and poor Aby would to a certainty have “ slipped his wind” in a very short time, had not a pupil accidentally called, who had the presence of mind to apply the key of the door to the femoral artery, and by compressing it at the part where this vessel glides over the pubis, stopped the hæmorrhage, and thus gained time for the application of another tourniquet.

This is among the many examples brought forward by that eminent surgeon Sir Astley Cooper, in his Lectures, to impress upon the minds of his pupils the imperative necessity of

being well acquainted with the anatomy of the human body. "By this it is," he observed, "that you must lay the foundation for future advancement; and without which you cannot conscientiously discharge your duty to society."

SPIDERS.

It is certain that the generality of spiders may be swallowed without any apprehension of the least bad effect from them, as the very minute quantity of the poisonous fluid contained in their fangs is not sufficient to produce any injury to a full grown person, nor probably even to an infant.

The famous Anna Maria Schurman was fond of eating spiders; and Roesel has mentioned several similar instances. Mouffet, in his 'History of Insects,' tells a pleasant story of a profligate medical practitioner, who undertook to cure a rich lady of London of a tympanites, stipulating to have half the proposed reward paid him immediately, and the other half on the cure being completed. Having received the half share of the reward, which was a considerable sum, he administered several spiders to his patient, disguised in the form of pills, and, being probably alarmed by the violence of their action, and not doubting but that he had poisoned her, he absconded; but hearing, some



DR. BLACK.



time afterwards, that the lady was perfectly recovered, he returned, and waited on the lady, to whom he apologised for his long absence, and immediately received the remainder of his reward, with many praises for the efficacy of his medicine.—s.

A FRENCH OLD MAID!

A single woman, of *fourscore* years of age, being opened, had the hymen nearly circular, with only a small perforation in the middle! It is preserved, as one of the greatest curiosities in all France, by M. Sue, Member of the Academy of Surgery. M. Fournier, in the "*Dictionnaire des Sciences Medicales*," says, "This is a most surprising phenomenon, since the hymen is so early destroyed, in general, by the most *innocent introductions*."

DR. HAIGHTON.

This eminent physiologist, and very able physician, discharged his debt to nature on the 23d of March, 1823. The conveyance of his mortal remains to their mother earth was attended by the carriages of upwards of thirty friends; among which were those of Dr. Babington, Sir Astley Cooper, Mr. Cline, and the other medical officers of the Borough-hospitals. The doctor never entered the

state of matrimony, which his intimate friends attributed to the petulance of his temper, and abruptness of his manners, which nearly approximated to those of a certain great anatomist and surgeon of the present day, who, however, fortunately met with a lady that was so fascinated with his eccentricity, on his first visit, as to require little entreaty to become his partner for life.

The doctor had been for many winters subject to chronic inflammation of the membrane of the windpipe and bronchial tubes, which was frequently attended with symptoms of tubercular consumption.

As an anatomist, physiologist, physician, and accoucheur, the doctor was inferior to no man. So superior was his knowledge of the diseases and physiology of the uterus, that he gave this part of Mr. Cline's anatomical lectures by his particular invitation.

Dr. Haighton was one of the practitioners the College of Physicians, about fifteen years ago, resolved to prosecute, for exercising the healing art, within the limits of their jurisdiction, without a licence. The doctor, like a sincere friend to science, replied, that he had no objection to submit to the strictest examination to which that learned body could subject him, and to pay their demand for a licence; but the College, al-

though they did not dispute his competency to practise physic, insisted on his residing at some university two years, in order to entitle him to an examination. Being as well acquainted with all the branches of medicine as any member of the College, the doctor resisted their mandate. To require so able a physician to leave his connexion for two years, to attend the lectures of teachers of an university (no matter where, so that it was an university,) who were much his inferiors in every department of medicine, merely to entitle him to an examination, was, indeed, a proceeding so truly preposterous, that, it would be supposed, no body of men, however unlimited their power might be, would dare to adopt in an enlightened country.

Dr. Haighton disregarded their threats, while others thought it prudent to make the best bargains they could, in order to silence them. Some, as Drs. Clarke and Denman, agreed to pay the monthly mulct of five guineas; others went to an university, to qualify themselves for an examination, as Dr. Walchman, Dr. George Rees, &c.; and others, as Dr. Babington, Dr. Adams, &c., acknowledged their power, and politely admitted that the *real* object of the College was the promotion of medical science, and the good of the public; and not, as others had basely asserted, the monopoly of the *fee-trade*.

The resolutions of the College will, it is hoped, induce the enlightened part of the public to investigate the motive of their proceedings, the consequences of which will, no doubt, induce them to adopt bye-laws adapted to the present state of the Science of Medicine; and to admit all who are found competent to practise the art, without regard to the *place* where he obtained his knowledge.

THOMAS LYNACRE, OR LINACER.

In the year 1525, died Thomas Lynacre, or Linacer,* one of the most polite scholars of the age. He was well descended, was born in 1460, at Canterbury, and bred at All Souls' College, Oxford, whence he travelled to Italy. At Bologna he studied under Angelo Politian, whom, he is said, to have surpassed in pure latinity. At Florence he was much regarded by the Duke Lorenzo, and became perfect in Greek, by the assistance of Demetrius, a Constantinopolitan fugitive. He studied philosophy at Rome under Hermolaus Barbarus; and, on his return to England was successively appointed physician to Henry VII. and VIII., Prince Edward, and the Princess Mary. He translated many diffi-

* The damask-rose is said to have been introduced into England by this eminent physician, not long before he died.

cult pieces from the Greek of Galen; gave lectures on medicine at Oxford, to which university he was a benefactor, and was founder of the College of Physicians in London.

Not long before his decease he took holy orders; for this several reasons are given, but none satisfactory. Sir John Cheke says, that a little before his death Linacre began to read the New Testament; but, struck with the purity of its precepts, he hurled it away in a passion, crying, "Either this is not the gospel, or we are not Christians!"—*Aiken*.

PRESCRIPTIONS.

The Court of Star-Chamber, in June, 1632, upon the petition of the College of Physicians, ordered, that the Apothecaries should not make any alterations in the prescriptions brought to them to be dispensed; that they should not sell any poisons, [*i. e.* powerful medicines] or [ordinary] medicines without a bill or prescription of a physician, or upon *a bill either written or subscribed by him that either buyeth or taketh the same*, and that all such bills or prescriptions should be retained and filed by the Apothecary, as his warrant and order for selling the same.

The same court also ordered, that no surgeon in London, or within seven miles thereof, should take off a limb, trepan the head, open the chest

or belly, cut for the stone, or perform any capital operation, such as their own bye-laws require them to call in the attendance of their Wardens or Assistants, unless in the presence of one or more of the physicians of the College, or of his majesty's physicians.—*s.*

ON A LADY WHO CALLED IN A PHYSICIAN.

Εἰς Σκυλλαν πίπτει δεινὴν φεύγῃτα Χάρυβδι,
Κυρὰς' ἰατρῷ νηστὸν ἀλευομένη.

“ Incidit in Scyllam, cupiens vitare Charybdis,”
Qui, morbum fugiens, incidit in medicum.*

POWER OF IMAGINATION.

In the spring of the year 1776, Mr. Paulin, physician to the Bishop of Munster, was consulted by a man of consideration, who, for five or six years, had suffered severe pains in the stomach and the hypochondria; he was resolved to take the Frankfort Pills, the composition of which is attributed to Bacher; persuaded that nothing but these pills could cure him, and obstinately refused every other remedy.

M. Paulin, surprised at so singular a prejudice, promised to satisfy him, and to compose the pills himself; but, judging them to be in

* He falls into Scylla, wishing to avoid Charybdis,
Who, flying from the disease, falls into the hands of
the physician.

no way suitable to the state of the patient, he made, with crumbs of new bread and spittle, eighteen pills, which he gilt and sent to the patient. He took them with avidity from day-break, and, in the evening, came to M. Paulin, and told him he had vomitted once, and evacuated abundantly, downwards, five times; that, in short, he was perfectly cured. The physician, being unwilling to believe these spontaneous evacuations, which he well knew could not be the effect of the pills that he had given to the patient, went to his house, where he found, indeed, a very great quantity of piluitous matter discharged. Shall we attribute this purgation to the disposition of the patient's body, or to his heated imagination? It is probable it will be regarded as the effect of a heated imagination, especially as it is made to play so great a part in the animal economy, and, as it is pretended, it performs marvellous cures.

Moreover, if the effect of the pills above-mentioned can be attributed to the disposition of the body of the patient, the following is an account of others, which have produced their effect solely by the irritation which the sight of them occasioned.

A man, says Olaus Borrichius, in the Acts of Copenhagen for the year 1678, whom I cured and purged after his illness, requested me to

order a mild purgative for his wife. This lady, being delicate, made much ado to swallow them in the presence of her husband, who took liquid medicines well enough, but had a sort of horror for pills. These had so strong an effect on his imagination, that he instantly desired his wife to swallow them or he should vomit; but the business was done, and he was purged much sooner than his wife, and even more than her, for he vomited twice, besides having three abundant stools.

PHYSICIANS RECOMMENDED.

The old quaint saying, so often used, that the best physicians are Dr. Quiet, Dr. Diet, and Dr. Merryman, is translated from the following distich of the *Schola Salernitana*:—

Si tibi deficient medici, medici tibi fiant,
Hæc tria—mens hilaris, requies, moderata diæta,

COLONEL BLOOD.

Few medical men are acquainted with the fact, that the famous Colonel Blood, who attempted to steal the regalia from the Tower, desirous of concealing himself for some years before the attempt, settled his wife and son at Romford, in an apothecary's shop, by the name of Weston, turned doctor himself, and practised for some time, under the name of Ayliffe.—s.

DR. ROBERT FLUDD

Was a physician who had the address to render his rosicrucian doctrines the instrument of success, in the way of his profession, during the reign of James I. He is said to have used a kind of sublime unintelligible cant, of which his works furnish ample specimens, to his patients, which, by inspiring them with greater faith in his skill, might, in some cases, contribute to their cure. Accordingly, he was eminent in his medical capacity; and his invention of the thermometer, as a measure of heat and cold, shews that his cant did not prevent his better knowledge.

LONG FEMALE TONGUES.

M. Fournier saw a woman at Berlin, whose tongue was amazingly large, but thin as a cat's. When this woman laughed, her tongue covered the whole of her mouth, and hung out like folds of drapery. It was always cold, and communicated a most frigorific sensation to the hand of another person. The same author knew a handsome young woman, fifteen or sixteen years of age, who, although she had a long neck, could extend her tongue to her breast without stooping her head! If these organs performed their loquacious functions,

in a manner proportionate to their magnitude, what a perpetual ringing of treble-bob majors, and grandsire cators for the poor devils, their husbands, to endure.

ORIGIN OF SURGERY.

The study and practice of physic, like other sciences, had fallen into the hands of the clergy, as Fleury and Dom Rivet observe. The Council of Rheims, under Innocent II. in 1131, forbade monks to frequent Schools of Medicine, or practise it out of their own monastery, on account of the law of inclosure; but some monks still pursued it at home, and some among the secular clergy continued to teach and practise it as before. Peter Lombard, canon of Chartres, (a different person from the Bishop of Paris of the same name) was first physician to King Louis the Young; and Mauger, Archdeacon of Evreux, afterwards Bishop of Winchester, in 1199, was first physician to Richard I. King of England. The council of Lateran, in 1215, forbade the clergy who practised medicine to perform any operations in which steel instruments or fire were applied.

In the 13th century, surgery began to be a distinct profession from medicine. Till that time the latter was looked upon in the schools as a part of physics, or natural philosophy; nor

was it made a distinct faculty before the year 1472. Though the *belles lettres* were still neglected till the Greeks flying from Constantinople, on the approach of the Ottoman forces, revived the taste of them in the West; the study of medicine began to be much cultivated, with other serious sciences, in the 11th and 12th centuries: but anatomy and botany were little known, without which physicians are no better than empirics. Medicine then consisted in reading principally Galen and Hippocrates, and in observing nature, the only true method of that study which Hippocrates leads his attentive readers to pursue. The most famous schools for medicine, set up in the 12th age, were those of Paris and Montpellier. That of Padua succeeded them; and they were preceded by that of Salerno, of all others at that time the most celebrated, and much resorted to from France, England, &c. as appears from the learned John of Salisbury, in his *Metalogicus*, l. iv. c. 4. The famous medical institutions of the school of Salerno, collected by the professor Peter, of Milan, chiefly from the Arabians and Galen, which had been so often reprinted, were compiled in the 11th age. Robert, Duke of Normandy, having consulted the school of Salerno, as he passed through Italy, in his return from the first crusade, a copy of this book was

soon after addressed to him, under the title of King of England. It is to be wished that the late French edition of this book had been enriched with a curious investigation of each precept; that those of Hippocrates had been distinguished from others borrowed from the Arabians; and that some mistakes had been pointed out, and corrected from modern observations, since a new path has been struck out in that study by Baglivi and Bellini, and has been so laudably pursued by Lommius, Sydenham, Boerhaave, Van Swieten, Hoffman, &c.

PROGRESS OF PHYSICIANS.

(From Hawkins' Life of Dr. Johnson.)

Dr. Richard Bathurst was a native of Jamaica, and the son of an eminent planter in that island, who, coming to settle in England, placed his son in London, in order to qualify him for the practice of physic. In the course of his studies he became acquainted with Johnson, and was greatly beloved by him for the pregnancy of his parts and the elegance of his manners. Besides these, he possessed the qualities that were most likely to recommend him in his profession; but, wanting friends, could make no way in it. He had just interest enough to be chosen physician to an hospital that was supported by precarious donations, and which

yielded him little or no recompence for his attendance, which, as it was only a few hours on certain days in the week, left him in a great measure master of his time. Of this he was a good manager, employing it in the studies relative to his profession, and the improvement of himself in polite literature; pursuing, at the same time, the most prudent and probable methods for acquiring reputation and advancing himself in his profession; but, missing of success, he embraced the offer of an appointment of physician to the army that was sent on the expedition against the Havannah, where, soon after his arrival, he was seized with a fever that then raged among the troops, and which, before he could be a witness of the reduction of the place, put a period to an innocent and useful life.

The Spaniards have a proverb, that he who intends to be Pope must think of nothing else. Bathurst thought of becoming an eminent London physician, and omitted no means to attain that character; he studied hard, dressed well, and associated with those who were likely to bring him forward; but he failed in his endeavours, and shortly before his leaving England, confessed to Johnson, that in the course of ten years' exercise of his faculty, he had never opened his hand to more than one guinea.

The failure of such a person as Dr. Bathurst, in a profession in which very many ignorant men have been known to succeed—so ignorant as to request of the College the indulgence of an examination in English, was a matter of wonder to Johnson and all that knew him. An acute observer, who had looked on the transactions of the medical world for half a century, states a very curious book might be written on the fortune of physicians.” The following remarks have occurred in the course of a long intimacy with some of the most eminent of the profession.

In the metropolis, the track of a young physician is pretty plainly pointed out, and it is curious that the conduct of such an one is reducible to a system. Mead was the son of a non-conforming minister, the teacher of a numerous congregation, who, trusting to his influence over them, bred his son a physician; with what success is well known. Indeed, the interest which the dissenting teachers had with the members of their several congregations, though now but little known, was formerly very great, and was such, that scarcely any member of a separate congregation would dispose of a daughter, or make a purchase, or advance a sum of money on a mortgage, without first consulting his pastor. It has been said, that when

Mead began to practise, he was a constant frequenter of the meeting at Stepney, where his father preached; and that when he was sent for out of the assembly, which he often was, his father would, in his prayer, insert a petition in behalf of the sick person. This was once mentioned to Johnson, who said it was too gross for belief; but it was not so at Batson's; it passed there as a current tradition.

Dr. Mead raised the medical character to such a height of dignity as was never seen in this or any other country. His example was an inducement with others of the dissenting ministers to make physicians of their sons. Oldfield, Clarke, Nesbitt, Lobb, and Munckly, were the sons of dissenting teachers, and they generally succeeded. The hospital of St. Thomas, and that of Guy, in Southwark, were both under the government of dissenters and whigs; and as soon as any one became physician of either, his fortune was looked upon as made.

The same advantage attended the election of a physician to the hospitals of Bethlehem and St. Bartholomew, which are of royal foundation, and have been under tory government. By cultivating an interest with either of the two parties, the succession of a young physician was almost insured. The frequenting Batson's or Child's was a declaration of the side he took, and his

business was to be indiscriminately courteous and obsequious to all men; to appear much abroad and in public places, to increase his acquaintance, and form good connexions; in the doing of which, if he were married, a wife that could visit, play at cards, and tattle, was oftentimes very serviceable. A candidate for practice pursuing these methods, and exercising the patience of a setting-dog for half a score years, in the expectation of deaths, resignations, or other accidents that occasion vacancies, at the end thereof either found himself an hospital physician, and if of Bethlehem, a monopolist one and a very lucrative branch of practice; or doomed to struggle with difficulties for the remainder of his life.

Jurin, Shaw, James, and some few others, recommended themselves to practice by their writings; but, in general, the methods of acquiring it, at least in the city, were such as are above described. One, and only one, of the profession, pursued a different conduct, and under the greatest disadvantages succeeded.—This person was Dr. Meyer Schomberg, a native of Cologne, who being a Jew, and said to have been librarian to some person of distinction abroad, left that occupation, and came and settled in London. Being of no profession, and having the means of a livelihood to seek,

he was at a pause, but at length determined on one, and took it up in a manner that will be best described by his own words to a friend. —“ I said I was a physician.” Having thus assumed a profession, he cultivated an intimacy with the Jews of Duke’s-place; and, by their means, got introduced to the acquaintance of some of the leading men, merchants and others, of their religion, who employed him, and by their interest recommended him to a practice, that, in a few years, amounted to a thousand pounds a year.

He was a man of insinuating address, and as he understood mankind very well, having renounced the ritual distinctions of his religion, he soon found out a method of acquiring popularity, which had never been practised by any of his profession; he took a large house in the city, and kept a public table, to which, on a certain day in the week, all the young surgeons were invited, and treated with an indiscriminate civility that had very much the appearance of friendship, but meant nothing more than that they should recommend him to practice. The scheme succeeded; in the year 1740, Schomberg had outstripped all the city-physicians, and was in the annual receipt of four thousand pounds.

To enable him to practice, he had, at his set-

ting out, procured himself to be admitted a licentiate of the College; but that permission had been granted him with so ill a grace, or was followed by some circumstances that provoked his resentment so highly, that he seemed resolved on a perpetual enmity against the members of that body; who, on their part, looking on him as little better than a foreign mountebank, declined, as much as possible, meeting him in consultation, and thereby, for some time, checked his practice.

Dr. Schomberg had a son, whom he brought up to his own profession, who took it into his head, that having been admitted a licentiate, he was virtually a fellow, and claimed to be admitted as such; his father encouraged him, and instituted a process in his behalf, of which there had been no precedent since the time that Jefferies was Chancellor. It was no less than a petition to the King, requesting him, in the person of the lord chancellor, to exercise his visitatorial power over the College, and restore the licentiates to their rights, of which, by their arbitrary proceeding, the president and fellows had for a succession of ages deprived them.— This petition came on to be heard at Lincoln's-Inn Hall, before the Lord Chief Justice Willes, the Lord Chief Baron Smythe, and Sir John Eardly Willmot, Lords Commissioners of the

Great Seal; but the allegations therein contained not being sufficiently supported, it was dismissed; nevertheless, it was looked on as the most formidable attack on the College it had ever sustained, and may be said to have shaken its constitution to the very centre.

Hence it appears that political associations and religious sects are excellent nurses to young men of professions, especially of that of Medicine; Ratcliffe and Freind owed their fortunes to the support of the tories and jacobites; Mead and Hulse to the whigs, and Schomberg to the Jews. The Quakers also, no contemptible body of men, had power and interest sufficient to introduce into great practice one of their own denomination; this was John Fothergill, a young man of parts and industry, who being bred an apothecary, and having obtained a Scotch degree, settled in London, and attached himself to Schomberg, taking him in many parts of his conduct for his exemplar: so that, upon Schomberg's decease, he slid into his practice, and became one of the most popular of the city-physicians. These two persons, first one and then the other, for full thirty years carried all before them; and within that space of time numbers of the profession, and no doubt of equal abilities, lived in great straits, some of them leaving at their

decease scarcely sufficient to bury them. From these, and many other instances that might be produced, it is evident, that neither learning, parts, or skill, nor even all these united, are sufficient to ensure success in the profession of physic; and that, without the concurrence of adventitious circumstances, which no one can pretend to define, a physician of the greatest merit may be lost to the world.

MEDICAL CHARACTER.

The medical character, whatever it is now, was heretofore a grave one: it implies learning and sagacity; and therefore, notwithstanding Lord Shaftesbury's remark, that gravity is of the very essence of imposture, the candidates for practice, though ever so young, found it necessary to add to their endeavours a grave and solemn deportment, even to affectation.

The physicians in Hogarth's prints are not caricatures; the full dress with a sword and a great tie-wig, and the hat under the arm, and the Doctors in consultation, each smelling to a gold-headed cane, shaped like a parish-beadle's staff, are pictures of real life in his time; and a young physician thus equipped, walked the streets of London without attracting the eyes of passengers.

A BELLY-FULL OF MARINE STORES.

The following case, attested by the principal physicians and surgeons of Brest, must cast in the shade that of the *knife-eater*, whose dissection excited so much curiosity, a few years ago, in this country.

A galley-slave died at the naval hospital of Brest, of a complaint in his stomach, attended with cough and colicky pains. On opening him the stomach was seen occupying the left hypochondrium, the lumbar and iliac regions of the same side, and stretching down into the pelvis. It was of a long square form, and contained the following substances, viz. a piece of a stave *nineteen inches long*, and half an inch in diameter; a piece of a broom-stick *six inches long*, and half an inch in diameter; another piece of the same, *eight inches long*; ditto, *six inches long*; twenty-two other pieces of wood, of three, four, and five inches in length; a wooden spoon, *five inches long*; the pipe of an iron funnel, *three inches long* and one in diameter; another piece of funnel, *two inches and a half long*; a pewter spoon entire, *seven inches long*; another, *three inches long*; another, *two inches and a half long*; a square piece of iron, weighing nearly two ounces. Various other articles, among which were nails, buckles, horns, knives, &c. the whole

weighing about twenty-four English ounces. This poor creature was deranged in his intellects, was a great glutton; and when he could not procure victuals to satisfy his voracity, he swallowed indigestible substances, as above, to lull the painful sensations of hunger. This case is attested beyond all doubt.—*Cas rares.*

A HEARTLESS ROMAN.

Telasius asserts, that he dissected a Roman soldier, in whom there was not a vestige of *heart* to be found! however *heartless* a set the degenerated inhabitants of the “eternal city” may now be, we think M. Fournier might have placed this among the “*cas rares fabuleuses.*”

M. FERRARI, OF XERES, ON YELLOW FEVER.

Notwithstanding the numerous memoirs which have appeared on the epidemic fever of Spain, it is not in recollection that it has been explained on the Broussaian system before. M. Ferrari concludes, from what fell under his observation, that the yellow fever is a phlegmasia of the gastric and hepatic system, and not an essential fever! That it arises from some poisonous sort of miasma; and that this miasma or contagious poison is the effect of an union of certain causes and no other, excited by a certain degree of heat! That the degree of heat is only a necessary condition, but not the exciting cause; that

as in the city of Xeres there does not exist, nor ever has existed, that union of circumstances necessary for its production, it is not therefore spontaneous, but has been imported as often as it has been experienced; that considering the mode of attack, communication and propagation in the city of Xeres, it appears to be contagious; and that, although it is certain that contagion alone, and not heat alone, may reproduce the yellow fever, this re-production is neither so frequent nor so easy as is supposed.

Edin. Jour.

BROUGHTON,

An English surgeon, whose good fortune it was to open the commerce of India to his countrymen by the following accident, having been sent from Surat to Agra in the year 1636, to treat one of the daughters of the Emperor Shaw-Gehan, had the good fortune to cure the princess. By way of recompence, the emperor, among other favours, gave him the privilege of a free commerce throughout the whole extent of his dominions. Broughton immediately returned to Bengal, to purchase goods and transmit them by sea to Surat. Scarcely had he returned, when he was requested to attend the favourite of the nabob of the province, labouring under a very dangerous disease. Having fortunately restored his patient

to health, the nabob settled a pension on him, confirmed the privilege of the empire, and promised to allow the same to all the English who should come to Bengal. Broughton communicated all this to the English Governor of Surat, and it was by the advice of the latter, that the Company sent from England, in 1640, two ships to Bengal. Such was the origin of a commerce that has since been carried to so great an extent; and even produced territorial possessions superior in extent and population to the country an association of whose subjects is their sovereign.

ANDREAS VESALIUS,

A famous physician and anatomist, flourished in the 16th century. He was born at Bruxelles; was a physician to Charles V. and afterwards to his son Philip. He died on his return from the Holy Land, being cast by a storm upon the deserts of the isle of Zanthè. The occasion of his voyage to Jerusalem was this: having a Spanish gentleman under cure, who, after some time, appeared to him to be really dead, he asked his friends leave to open him; which being granted, he no sooner applied the knife to the body, but he observed some signs of life, and having opened his breast, saw his heart beat. The man's friends, hearing of this sad accident, not only prosecuted Vesalius as

a murderer, but accused him of impiety before the Inquisition, hoping he might be punished with special rigour by the judges of that tribunal. These, indeed, would have him punished according to the nature of the crime; but the King of Spain, partly by his authority, and partly by his entreaties, got him acquitted, upon condition that, to expiate the crime, he should go in pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

Thuanus relates a very particular thing of him, viz. that having foretold to Maximilian of Egmont, Count of Bure, in Guelderland, the day and the hour of his death, this Lord ordered a very splendid feast, loaded his table with all his plate, invited all his friends, sat down with them, pressed them to be merry, distributed his treasures liberally among them; then, having taken his leave, without the least emotion, went and laid him down and died, the same hour and day which Vesalius had foretold.

DR. CHRISTOPHER MERRET.

Although this physician was at one time so much in favour of the College as to be chosen one of the thirty fellows, who, at that time, composed the nobili, or upper class of the College, yet this favour was of short duration, and a violent quarrel succeeded.

Dr. William Harvey, in 1653, builded, at his own expence, a library and museum for the College; and Dr. Merret, who resided in the College, arranged the books therein, and performed the office of librarian, as he says, by the appointment of the College, acting on the recommendation of Dr. Harvey; but the College denied that this appointment ever took place, as it did not appear on their register. However this be, Dr. Harvey, afterwards, in 1656, gave them certain lands as a fund to enable them to pay the librarian 20*l.* a-year, requiring, that the said officer should give security for the due performance of his duty, and be removable at their pleasure.

Dr. Merret continued to take care of the library, without any formal appointment, or the receipt of any regular salary; but, as the rent of the house, in the college, held by him on lease was 20*l.* a-year, the College never asked for their rent, but left it as a recompence for his trouble.

In the great plague of 1666, the College-apartments were shut up; but Dr. Merret flying with his family into the country, the place being left unguarded, was broken open, and the College robbed to the value of about 1000*l.* This was succeeded by the great fire of the same year, in which the College was burned down

and many of their books also destroyed. Dr. Merret states that he preserved the remainder by the sacrifice of his own; which the College thought improbable, as he had good warning for removal, the fire not reaching there until Wednesday, although it begun on Saturday night.

In consequence of this destruction of the College, the dean and chapter of St. Paul's wished to cancel the lease of the ground on which Dr. Merret's house had stood; but as his under-lease was unexpired, this could not be effected without his assent; which he gave on the receipt of 50*l.* from the College, who received 550*l.* from the dean and chapter for cancelling the lease which they had granted to the College.

And now came the dispute; for Dr. Merret insisted on his having been appointed librarian for life by Dr. Harvey, after setting his name down to a subscription for rebuilding the College, as a contributor of 40*l.* not only refused to pay this money, but, also, a further contribution of 20*l.* which it happened to be his turn to furnish for the College-feast that year, pleading his salary as a set off; he also kept possession of the books, as a security for their satisfying him for his own losses by the great fire.

It does not appear from the extracts of the college-registers, made by Dr. Charles Goodall, who had, at nearly the same time, a quarrel with the College, how this affair, which made a great noise amongst the faculty for several years, was terminated.—s.

A NEW SETTLEMENT OF MEDICAL ACCOUNTS.

Harlequin, in one of the French comedies, pretends to be sick; a physician who has cured him demands payment. This, Harlequin refusing, the physician brings his action. Both being in presence of the judge, Harlequin declares he does not wish to have the health he received, and proposes to give it back again, being ready to deliver it into the hands of the Judge, provided the doctor will do the same with the disease of which he had deprived him, so that each party may again have his own property.

STATE OF SURGICAL KNOWLEDGE IN THE FOURTEENTH CENTURY.

The following extract from a treatise composed by Guido Cauliaco, in 1363, will, as Dr. Henry justly observes, clearly point out the state of chirurgery at the æra of which we speak.

“There are,” says he, “five sects of surgeons.

The first follow Roger, Roland, &c. and apply poultices to all wounds and abscesses. The second follow Brumis and Theodoric, and use wine only. The third follow Saliceto and Langfranc, and heal wounds with ointments and soft plaisters. The fourth are chiefly Germans, who attend the armies, and promiscuously use charms, potions, oil, and wood. The fifth are old women and ignorant people, who, in all cases, have recourse to the saints."

TWO WOMEN IN ONE BODY.

Vallesnieri dissected a female in whom were found two uteri; the orifice of one opened into the vagina, of the other into the rectum. M. Fournier says, there is no doubt but that *coitus per anum* would have been followed by conception. He grounds this opinion on the curious case related by the celebrated Louis, of a young lady who had a congenital imperforation of the external organs of generation. This girl menstruated per anum. She was solicited in marriage by a young man to whom she was attached. After much resistance she confessed to him the secret. In the height of his passion, he besought his mistress to allow him to unite with her in the only way which was practicable: she consented to every thing and soon became pregnant. The delivery of an infant took place

at the proper time by the anus. Louis made this the subject of a thesis, and was prosecuted by the parliament of Paris; and the doctors of the Sorbonne interdicted him for addressing to the casuists the following question:—"In uxore, sic disposita, uti fas sit, vel non? judicent theologi morales."* The pope, however, more philosophic than the parliament or the Sorbonne, gave absolution to Mons. Louis, and his thesis was published in 1754.

DR. AKENSIDE.

(From Hawkins's Life of Johnson.)

Mr. Dyson and Dr. Akenside were fellow-students, the one of law and the other of physic, at Leyden; where, being of congenial tempers, a friendship commenced between them that lasted through their lives. They left the University at the same time, and both settled in London. Mr. Dyson took to the bar; and being possessed of a handsome fortune, supported his friend while he was endeavouring to make himself known as a physician; but, in a short time, having purchased of Mr. Hardinge, his place of clerk of the House of Commons, he quitted Westminster Hall, and for

* Let moral theologians judge, whether in a wife thus formed, the action was lawful or not.

the purpose of introducing Akenside to acquaintance in an opulent neighbourhood near the town, bought a house at North-End, Hampstead, where they dwelt together during the summer season; frequenting the long room, and all clubs and assemblies of the inhabitants.

At these meetings, which, as they were not select, must be supposed to have consisted of such persons as usually meet for the purpose of gossiping, men of wealth, but of ordinary endowments, and able to talk of little else than news and the occurrences of the day, Akenside was for displaying those talents which had acquired him the reputation he enjoyed in other companies; but here they were of little use to him—on the contrary, they tended to engage him in disputes that betrayed him into a contempt of those that differed in opinion from him. It was found out that he was a man of low birth and a dependant on Mr. Dyson, circumstances that furnished those whom he offended with a ground of reproach, that reduced him to the necessity of asserting, in direct terms, that he was a gentleman.

Little could be done at Hampstead, after matters had proceeded to this extremity; Mr. Dyson parted with his villa at North-end, and settled his friend in a small house in Bloomsbury-square, assigning for his support such

a part of his income as to enable him to keep a chariot.

In this new situation, Akenside used every endeavour to become popular, but defeated them all by the high opinion he every where manifested of himself, and the little condescension he shewed to men of inferior endowments; and by his love of political controversy, his authoritative censure of the public councils, and his bigotted notions respecting government; subjects foreign to his profession, he not a little added to the public obloquy which was, as he became more known, heaped upon him. In the winter evenings, he frequented Tom's coffee-house, in Devereux Court, then the resort of some of the most eminent men for learning and ingenuity of the time; with some of whom he became entangled in disputes and altercations chiefly on subjects of literature and politics, that fixed on his character the stamp of haughtiness and self-conceit, and often drew him into disagreeable situations.

There was at that time a man of the name of Ballow, who used to pass his evenings in the society above-mentioned, a lawyer by profession, but of no practice; he having, by the interest of some of the Townshends, to whom he had been a kind of law tutor, obtained a place in the exchequer, which yielded him a

handsome income, and exempted him from the necessity of attending Westminster Hall. He was a man of deep learning, but of vulgar manners; and, being of a splenetic temper, envied Akenside for that eloquence which he displayed in his conversation, and set his own phraseology very low. Moreover, he hated him for his republican principles; and finally, being himself a man of solid learning, affected to treat him as a pretender to literature, and made it his study to provoke him.

One evening, at the coffee-house, a dispute between these two persons rose so high, that for some expression uttered by Ballow, Akenside thought himself obliged to demand an apology; which not being able to obtain, he sent his adversary a challenge in writing. Ballow, a little deformed man, well known as a saunterer in the Park about Westminster, and in Parliament-street, though remarkable for a sword of an unusual length, which he constantly wore when he went abroad, had no inclination for fighting, and declined an answer. The demand of satisfaction was followed by several attempts on the part of Akenside to see Ballow at his lodgings; but he kept close, till by the interposition of friends the difference could be adjusted. By his conduct in this business, Akenside acquired but little reputation

for courage; for the accommodation was not brought about by any concessions of his adversary, but by a resolution from which neither of them would depart, for one would not fight in the morning, nor the other in the afternoon: all that he got by it was, the character of an irascible man; and thus many who admired him for his genius and parts, were shy of becoming his intimates. Yet, where there was no competition for applause or literary reputation, he was an easy companion, and would bear with such rudeness as would have almost angered any other person. Saxby, of the Custom-house, who was every evening at Tom's, and by the bluntness of his behaviour, and the many shrewd sayings he was used to utter, had acquired the privilege of Thersites, of saying whatever he liked, was once rather coarsely inveighing against the profession of physic, which Akenside took upon him to defend. This railer, after labouring to prove it was all imposture, concluded his discourse with this sentiment: "Doctor," said he, "after all you have said, my opinion of the profession of physic is this—the ancients endeavoured to make it a science and failed; and the moderns to make it a trade, and have succeeded." Akenside took this sarcasm in good part, and joined in the laugh which it occasioned.

Dr. Akenside's example shews that no higher a character than is attainable by any one who with a studious taciturnity will keep his opinions to himself, conform to the practice of others, and entertain neither friendship for, nor enmity against any one, a competitor for the good opinion of the world, nay for its emoluments and even dignities, stands a better chance of success than one of the most established reputation for learning and ingenuity; for Akenside, in a competition for the place of physician to the Charter-house, was unable to prevail against an obscure man, devoid of every quality that might serve to recommend him, and whose sole merit was that of being distantly related to the late Lord Holland.

EFFECTS OF MEDICAL COLLEGES.

The splendid anatomical collection of professor Meckel of Halle is to be sold, a circumstance arising chiefly from the establishment of an university in Berlin, which has much injured the Prussian Universities, and particularly that of Halle. From 1800 to 1806, there was in Halle 1560 students, of them 120 were medical; there are now not more than 600 students, and only forty of them medical. The commissioners invested with the examination of medical practitioners in Prussia, being resident

at Berlin, having, since the establishment of an university in that city, favoured their own pupils so much that the other universities have become deserted.—*s.*

DISTINCTION BETWEEN A PHYSICIAN AND
MANMIDWIFE.

Physic and midwifery are two very different things, which may be learned and practised by persons of very different capacities and education, nay, even of different sexes. It is just as possible for a man to be a good physician without being a midwife, as it is for a discreet sober woman, who has borne three or four children, to be a good midwife without being a physician. They may even have known, that the most eminent physicians, both in ancient and modern times, from Hippocrates to Dr. Cullen inclusive, were not Midwives. They may also have conceived, that Dr. Cullen, whose talents contributed so much to raise and support the character of the medical school of Edinburgh, and on whose skill his friends and their families relied with confidence when health and life were at stake, would have made almost as bad a figure, if called on to play the midwife's part, as a good motherly woman of a midwife would do if she were dressed in his gown and wig, placed in his academic chair,

and desired to teach the theory and practice of physic.

As the practice of midwifery by men is very fashionable, and as every person should learn what he intends to practise, it is very proper there should be professors, and that students should have every opportunity of learning it. But as many students of medicine never mean to practise midwifery, it would be unreasonable and unjust to compel them to learn it; more especially as, notwithstanding the influence of fashion, there are many young men to whom it is peculiarly disgusting; and many wise and good men, and women too, of all ages, to whom the practice of midwifery by men is an abomination, which degrades the character of the one sex, and sullies the purity of the other. Many physicians are of this opinion. The Royal College of Physicians in London does not admit as a fellow any man who practises midwifery. A licentiate in physic may practise midwifery without forfeiting his general medical licence; but, in this College, they have licentiates for midwifery only, who are not entitled to practise physic.

The Royal College of Physicians at Edinburgh has lately allowed them to become fellows; for various reasons, which it is needless here to consider. Dr. Gregory says, "I shall

only say, that I espoused their cause, not for any esteem I have for their art, which I never studied, because I was resolved never to practise it, but because I hate all invidious distinctions, and every thing that has the appearance of an illiberal and corporation spirit; and because I can see no good reason why those men who pretend to help folk into the world, and those who pretend to keep them in it, or, as the malevolent presume to say, who help them out of it, may not live on good terms with one another, and from time to time drink a glass of claret together, 'to the memory of their deceased benefactors!'— Besides, I am clearly of opinion, that it is not for physicians, but those who employ them, to decide who are to be deemed physicians. If people chose to regard not only male but female midwives as physicians, and to call them Doctors, I think we should gain neither honour nor advantage by disputing the rights and privileges of the learned sisters."

These reflections on midwifery and midwives are taken from some animadversions written by Dr. Gregory, on a pamphlet published by one J. Johnson, purporting to be a guide for the students of medicine in the university of Edinburgh.

IPECACUANHA.

The history of various articles of diet and medicine will amply prove how much their reputation and fate have depended upon authority. For instance, it was not until many years after ipecacuanha had been imported into England, that Helvetius, under the patronage of Louis XIV., succeeded in introducing it into practice; and to the praise bestowed by Katherine, queen of Charles II., on tea, we are indebted for its general introduction into England.

STATE OF MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE IN THE FOURTEENTH CENTURY.

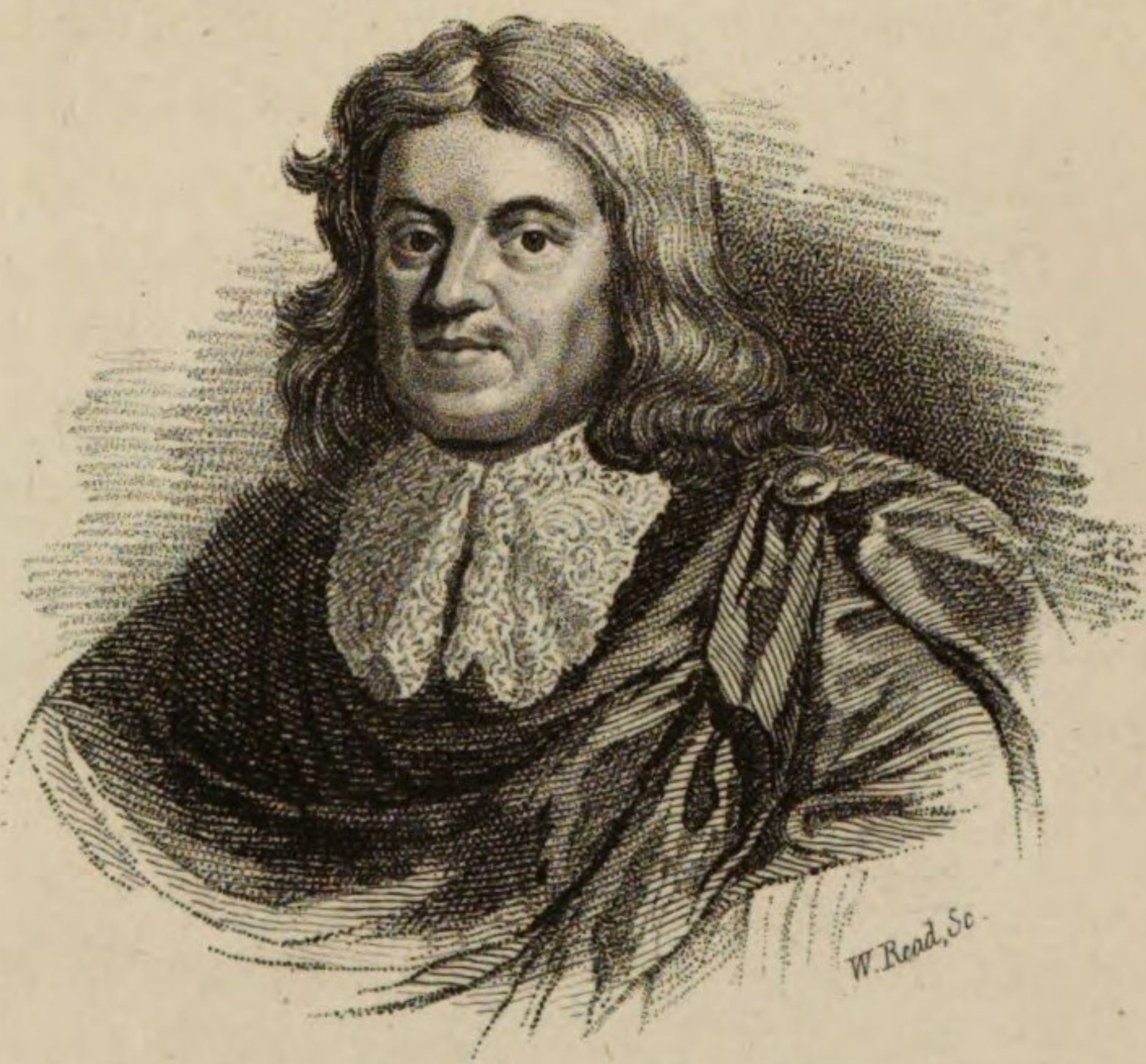
At the commencement of the fourteenth century, medical knowledge seems to have been at a very low ebb. Gilbert, the Englishman, the oldest writer on the subject in our language, is said, by Dr. Freind, to have borrowed all his science from the Arabian writers. John de Gaddesden, whose *Rosa Anglica* is a compendium of the whole practice of physic used in England, in his time, and who has been consulted by princes, and commended by Geoffrey Chaucer, appears, by some of his recipes, to have been extremely ignorant, or rather, perhaps, to have given too much attention to the prejudices of his patients, and to have used

auxiliary modes of practice, which would now be laughed at, by many, as highly absurd. In curing a son of Edward II. of the small-pox, he wrapped him up in scarlet cloth, and hung scarlet curtains round his bed! As a remedy for the epilepsy, he ordered the patient to be carried to church, to hear the mass during the fast, '*quatuor temporum*,' and, afterwards, to wear round his neck a verse of the day's gospel, written on a scroll by the priest. Yet, John de Gaddesden, in his *Rosa Anglica*, points out the way of rendering salt-water fresh, by distillation, a discovery which has been thought to be of much more modern date.

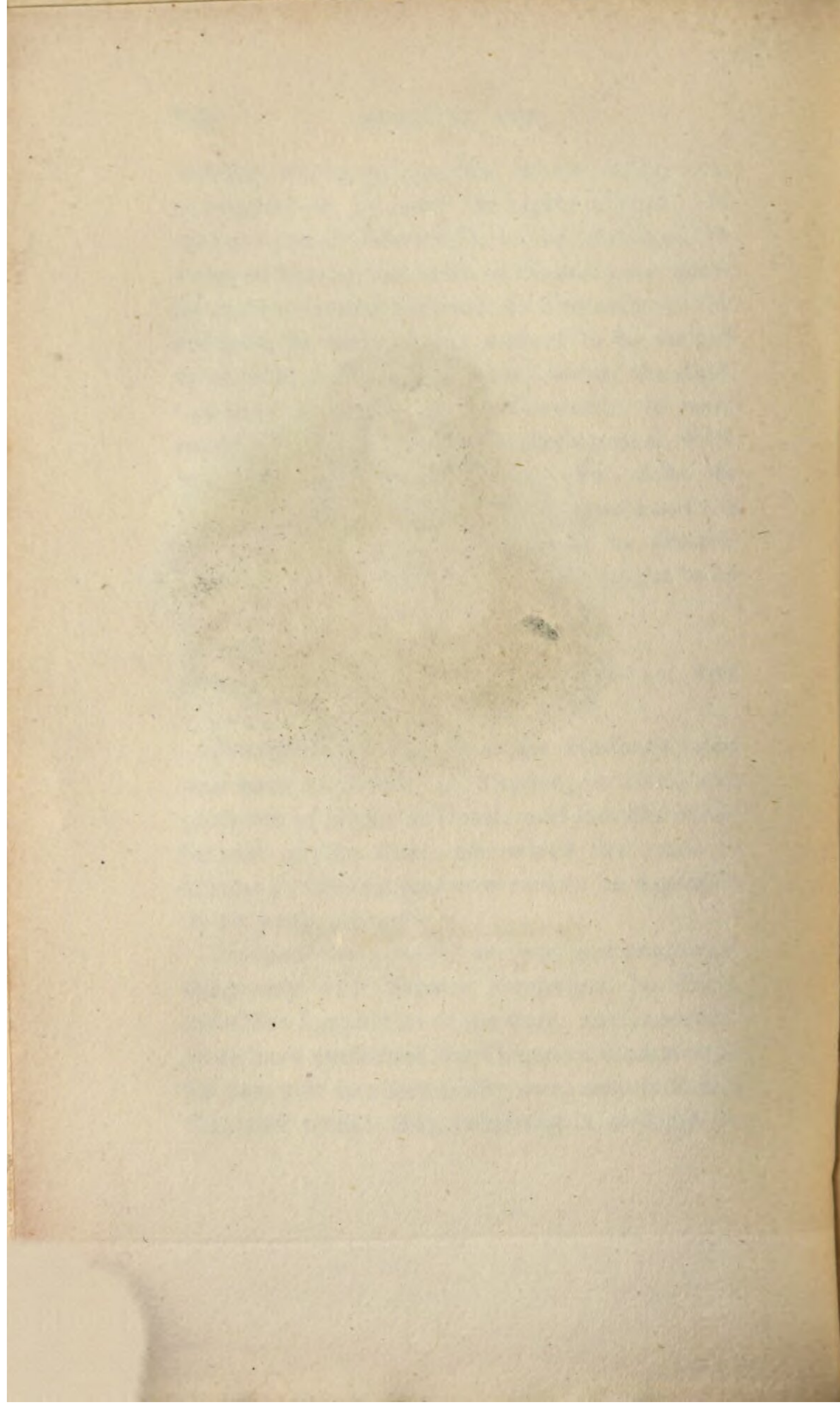
CÆSARIAN OPERATION PERFORMED BY THE
HUSBAND.

The justly celebrated Olaus Rudbeck, who was born at Arosia, in Sweden, in 1630, was professor of physic at Upsal, and founder of the botanic garden there, afterwards the scene of Linnæus's labours, and now said to be degraded to a potatoe ground!

Rudbeck was a skilful surgeon and anatomist. Conjointly with Thomas Bartholine, he discovered the lymphatics of the liver, and is recorded to have performed the Cæsarian section upon his own wife so successfully as to save both mother and child; thus exhibiting a striking in-



THOMAS SYDENHAM, MD



stance of marital intrepidity, as well as surgical skill.

In consequence, with his son, he undertook a magnificent botanical work, in folio, to be entitled "*Campi Elysii*," but an extensive fire at Upsal destroyed the greatest part of his labours on this subject. The remaining fragments have been since published by Sir James Edward Smith.

Besides these scientific labours, he is well known by a large and profound historical and archaological work, entitled "*Atlantica sive Manheim*," in 3 vols. folio; in which he advances that Sweden is the Atlantis of the ancients, and the primitive abode of man, and traces their colonization from thence over the face of the globe.

From what cause does it arise that the Cæsarian operation, which is so often performed successfully on foreign females, should be so uniformly fatal in England? We cannot doubt the skill and attention of our surgeons. We see no peculiar habits of life, in our females, which should render them less favourable subjects for the knife than foreign females. The best solution seems to be the probability that no practitioner in midwifery wishes to have the odium of the death of the female ascribed to his operat-

ing upon her, and hence the section is delayed until it is too late.—*S.*

DR. FRANCIS ANTHONY,

Was regularly graduated at Cambridge, both as Master of Arts and Doctor of Physic, and is entitled to notice as an eminent practising apothecary, his chemical opinions preventing his being received into the College, and practising as a physician in London.

His nostrum, called potable gold, made, for some time, a great noise in the world; and he published a defence of it in Latin, by no means devoid of learning and art; although, in the present improved state of chemistry and medicine, it would be thought destitute of solidity. The work is methodically divided into several chapters, in which he attempts to establish the possibility of making a potable gold; the great medicinal powers of the mineral kingdom; the superior virtues of gold; and the claim, a preparation of that metal may have to be entitled an universal medicine. Dr. Anthony's book was attacked by several of the physicians, and particularly by Dr. Matthew Gwinne. But, notwithstanding the strongest opposition, on the part of the College of Physicians, Anthony found means to engage the patronage of various persons of rank, and the good opinion of the

people at large ; to which the excellence of his moral character, his learning and easy address, did not a little contribute. He enjoyed the triumph of seeing his reputation, practice, and emoluments arrive at a great height.—s.

A NOBLEMAN POISONED BY HIS MUMMIES.

Louis de Bills, more commonly known by the name of Bilsius, was a Flemish nobleman, who had an enthusiastic passion for anatomical pursuits, and who devoted much time, and expended much money in them. He was the author of several anatomical treatises, the most celebrated of which bears the quaint title of “ *Anatomia Incruenta*,” or Bloodless Anatomy.

In this treatise he pretended that he had invented a new method, of which he made a secret, of performing dissections without effusion of blood, and of preserving and embalming dead bodies.

He once possessed a large collection of these bodies or mummies. Ray, in his Travels, relates that, when he was at Brussels, May 1, 1663, Ludovicus de Bills happened to be in that town ; he and Mr. Willoughby visited him, and saw five bodies, which he had with him, embalmed and preserved, after his newly-invented manner, entire, with all their entrails and bowels. Bills was then going to the Uni-

versity of Louvain, to make an agreement for the discovery of his art of embalming, and reading public anatomical lectures.

This boasted mystery of the bloodless anatomy ended, like many other mysteries; the mummies became putrid, and the noble preparer is said to have died of a consumption, brought on by the fetor emitted from his favourite, but decaying companions. Although the author made, during his life, a great noise and bustle, respecting this invention, it was never put in practice after his death.—*S.*

TOBACCO.

Notwithstanding its fascinating powers, tobacco has suffered romantic vicissitudes in its fame and character; it has been successively opposed and commended by physicians, condemned and eulogised by priests and kings,*

* James the First wrote a philippic against it, entitled "A COUNTERBLASTE TO TOBACCO," in which the royal author, with more prejudice than dignity, informs his loving subjects, that "It is a custome loathsome to the eye, hatefull to the nose, painfull to the braine, dangerous to the lungs; and, in the black stinking fume thereof, neerest resembling the horrible Stygian smoke of the pit that is bottomlesse; and that, if he was to invite the Devill, he would give him three things, a pole [head] of salmon, a dish of ling, with mustard, and a pipe of tobacco for digestion."

and proscribed and protected by governments; whilst, at length, this once insignificant production of a little island, or an obscure district, has succeeded in diffusing itself through every climate, and in subjecting the inhabitants of every country to its dominion. The Arab cultivates it in the burning desert, the Laplander and Esquimaux risk their lives to procure a refreshment so delicious in their wintry solitude; the seaman, grant him but this luxury, and he will endure, with cheerfulness, every other privation, and defy the fury of the raging elements; and, in the higher walks of civilized society, at the shrine of fashion, in the palace and in the cottage, the fascinating influence of this singular plant commands an equal tribute of devotion and attachment.

EXPERIMENTS ON DYING.

Dr. Cheyne, in his "English Malady, or Treatise on Nervous Diseases," a book which, by our immediate predecessors, was held in great repute, as a manual for the nervous and delicate, relates the case of Colonel Townsend, who, for many years, had been afflicted with a nephritic complaint, often passing a wheyish liquor with his urine, and attended with frequent vomitings. During the whole time of his illness he had observed the strictest regimen,

drinking asses milk daily, even when encamped, and for common drink Bristol water.

His illness increasing, and his strength decaying, he went to Bath on a litter, and lay at the Bell inn, where he sent for Drs. Baynard and Cheyne to attend him. After about a week's attendance, his vomitings still continuing, he settled his affairs, and desiring the two physicians and Mr. Skrine, the apothecary, to attend one morning, he told us, says Dr. Cheyne, he had sent for us to give him some account of an odd sensation he had for some time observed and felt in himself, which was that

“ He could die or expire when he pleased, and yet, by an effort, or somehow, he could come to life again, which, it seems, he had sometimes tried before he sent for us. He insisted so much on our seeing the trial made, that we were at last forced to comply. We all *three* felt his pulse first; it was distinct, though small and thready, and his heart had its usual beating. He composed himself on his back, and lay, in a still posture, for some time; while I held his right hand, Dr. Baynard laid his hand on his heart, and Mr. Skrine held a clear looking-glass to his mouth. I found his pulse sink gradually, till at last I could not feel any by the most true and exact touch. Dr. Baynard could not feel the least motion in his heart; nor Mr. Skrine perceive the least breath on the bright mirror he held to his mouth. Then each of us by turns examined his arm, heart, and breath, but could not, by the nicest scrutiny, discover the least symptom of life in him. We reasoned a long time about this odd appearance, as well

as we could; and finding he still continued in that condition, we began to conclude he had carried the experiment too far; and, at last, we were satisfied that he was actually dead, and were just ready to leave him. This continued about half-an-hour, but, as we were going away, we observed some motion about the body; and, upon examination, found his pulse, and the motion of his heart gradually returning. He began to breathe gently, and speak softly: we were all astonished, to the last degree, at this unexpected change; and, after some further conversation with him, and with ourselves, went away fully satisfied as to all the particulars of this fact."

He afterwards sent for his attorney, added a codicil to his will, received the sacrament, and calmly and composedly expired about five or six o'clock that evening.

The next day his body, according to his own direction, was opened, all the internal parts of which were found extremely sound, except the right kidney. This was four times the proper size, distended like a blown bladder, elastic, and, on being opened, was found quite full of a white earthlike matter resembling plaster of Paris.—S.

SURGICAL QUALIFICATIONS.

In the practice of surgery, there are, also, many essential qualities requisite on the part of the surgeon. The first of which is, neatness in the application of his remedies, for awkwardness, in this respect, will frequently injure his

professional prospects. The patient and his friends will often judge of a man's skill by his manner of bleeding, or from the application of a bandage; for, as it is sometimes expressed, 'the hand spoils the head.' The next is, gentleness in manner; patients having a natural dislike to operations, feel still more uneasy if they discover any thing in their practitioner's behaviour that gives them reason to apprehend rough treatment. Violence, in all cases bad, is sometimes attended by fatal consequences.

But the quality which is considered of the highest order in surgical operations, is self-possession. The head must always direct the heart; otherwise the operator is unfit to discover an effectual remedy for unforeseen accidents that may occur in his practice. Without this quality a man may do very well in ordinary cases, but can do little on sudden emergency; it inspires confidence, and almost ensures a successful operation.

In all cases, it is the duty of the surgeon never to advise an operation unless there is a probability of its being attended with success. He should here, as in every instance, do unto others as he would have others do unto him. Let it always be remembered that operations cannot safely be undertaken by any man, unless he possess an intimate acquaintance with ana-

tomy—the real ground-work of all surgical knowledge. It is a consolation, however, to know, that *the human frame is better understood at the present epoch by students,* than it was forty years ago by professors.* With us, the march of improvement has been most rapid; and this has arisen principally from the assiduity with which modern surgeons have pursued their dissecting-room avocations. A few years since, all operations were attended with hazard; those now undertaken commonly do well, a circumstance referable only to our increased information. An old surgeon, now deceased, said, ‘That operations for extracting stones from the bladder put him in mind of sailing between Scylla and Charybdis.’—It was replied, ‘that it certainly was *silly* not to attempt them!’ ’Tis true these operations require the most perfect anatomical skill, as do those for hernia, aneurism, and fractures of the bones of the head, attended with depression.

Anatomy, likewise, teaches how to discrimi-

* It were well did the majority of these students retain their anatomical knowledge on going into practice; unfortunately, this is the case with few. The only essential purpose it would, nay, in fact it does appear, for which a knowledge of anatomy is acquired, is to be able to pass examination at Surgeons'-hall. After this ordeal—*adieu l'anatomie!*

nate disease, in which lies more than half the cure. From a want of it dislocation frequently cannot be detected; whereby the patient may become miserable for life, and the reputation of the surgeon for ever destroyed. It was observed, by Sir Astley Cooper, from whose mouth these remarks were collected, that some years since one of the profession called on him, whom he had long known, but had not seen for many years. Sir A. naturally inquired after his progress. The reply was, that his life had been like April, sometimes sunshine, sometimes rain. 'How so? You have brought up a family genteelly, and have, I understand, a respectable practice.'—'True,' rejoined the practitioner, 'but a circumstance occurred, some time ago, that has given me much uneasiness. I was called to attend a case of dislocation at the shoulder-joint, but it so happened that I could not discover it.* After attending him for a considerable time, another surgeon was requested to see him, who, at once, pronounced the

* A proof of what is advanced in the preceding note; that knowledge hastily and imperfectly acquired is not established upon a firm basis. It also contradicts the assertion of the learned professor, on his own shewing, from actual experience, that the majority of the practitioners of the present day are not near so well acquainted with anatomy, as the barber-surgeons of old. ED.

bone to be out, which in reality was the case, for in a very short time he reduced it. When the man recovered, he brought an action against me, and I had to pay 200*l.* damages, and the law expenses cost me 200*l.* more. The loss of the money I did not feel; but I have severely felt being pointed at as an ignorant man.'

COLLEGE PROSECUTIONS.

The reigns of the two first George's have been justly denominated the reign of licentiousness; and those of Elizabeth and of the first James, the reign of monopoly. The ancient land possessions of the crown having been, by gifts to the partizans engaged in the civil wars of York and Lancaster, reduced to the bare means of defraying the expence of the royal household, accruing to it by the suppression of the monasteries (an action arising from this very poverty) having been exhausted in rewarding the adherents of the throne, during the reigns of Henry and his two immediate successors, Elizabeth and her successor were driven to use every species of invention to reward their followers. Among these financial inventions, patents of monopoly were in most general use, as grants to the creditors of the crown, who either exacted a quarterly allowance from those who continued in the trade, or sold the grant to speculators

who engaged in it themselves; those who had formerly been occupied in that kind of commerce being usually allowed four months to sell off their stock. Of course, as the men in power were almost universally interested in some one monopoly or another, they felt an interest in supporting them.

The College of Physicians, who had the monopoly of the practice of physic in London and its environs, granted to them by Henry VIII., took advantage of this favour, shewn to monopolies, to bring actions against persons who, at the present day, would not be thought to come in the least within their jurisdiction. They prosecuted Fairfax, Antony, Dee, and Tennant, for selling medicines, wrapped in a printed bill of their virtues. One Phillips, a distiller, was prosecuted because he gave, along with his cordials, a printed account of what they were esteemed good for. Aires, a confectioner, who sold purging sugar-plumbs for children, fell under the power of the College and Star-chamber.

To so great an extent was this purgation of London from empirics (as the practitioners, not belonging to the College, were usually called) carried, that one Dr. Hunt was prosecuted for the mere notification to the public of the place of his residence. Had cards of address been

then in use, the giving of one by a physician would, it appears from this last instance, have been considered as a public crime. The expence of law-suits, however to be deplored in most instances, has yet one good effect in diminishing the number of these prosecutions, as the College would not be able to stand the surplus expences of many suits, although they might succeed and recover costs.—s.

CASE OF DEFICIENT GLOTTIS.

Morgagni mentions a man in whom the epiglottis was wanting, though he spoke and swallowed without difficulty.

Vicq. D'Azir relates a case of a man in whom there was a dilatation of the œsophagus resembling the crop of birds. In swallowing, the food passed into the sac, and there remained till he vomited it up; this man died exhausted.

A young woman had a difficulty of swallowing from her infancy. Towards the period of menstruation it got worse, and the disease increased rapidly, and was always aggravated by exercise. At length deglutition became impossible, and the poor young woman died. On dissection, the cause of the malady was found to be an aberration in the course of the subclavian artery, which passed *between* the trachea

and œsophagus, compressing the latter, and preventing deglutition.

ICHTHYOPHAGY.

The art of the angler probably preceded the occupation of the shepherd, and may be pronounced, at least, coeval with that of the hunter. A diet of fish, it is well known, is still found to constitute almost the sole food of many savage communities.

Many ichthyophagous nations are mentioned by the ancients; still more have been discovered by the moderns. Among the last may be noticed the savages on the coast of New Albion; the Algonquin tribes, on the shores of Lake Superior, with a thousand others. It is likely that shell-fish, found on the sides of the sea, or of rivers, obtained without labour or contrivance of any kind, might furnish the first example of this species of aliment ventured upon mankind.—s.

DR. THOMAS WILLIS.

Aubrey has collected a number of anecdotes relating to his cotemporaries, which either escaped the notice of other biographers, or were considered by them as too trifling to be recorded; some of them, nevertheless, are very piquant and agreeable to us at this time, as they shew

the habits and manners of our immediate predecessors.

From this amusing collector we learn, that Dr. Thomas Willis was first servitor to Dr. Iles, a canon of Christchurch, and shewed some shrewdness and inquisitive scrutiny. Iles' wife dabbled in physic, and Willis, habited in his blue coat, the usual livery, in those days, of the serving men, or servitors, as they were classically called, afforded her considerable assistance.

He lost no opportunity for improving himself; and his knowledge, in various cases, did him great credit, and obtained him a wide reputation.

After the lapse of some years, he attended, in conjunction with Dr. Lydall, Abingdon market, for the purpose of giving advice, where, by his skilful treatment, and some successful results, he still more deeply founded his reputation, and enlarged the circle of his patients. At this time their funds were so slender, that they had but one horse between them.

Dr. Willis studied chemistry in Canterbury college; but his genius lay more towards mathematics; many of his problems were acute and subtle. Upon the whole he was a man of intense study, and this he was not backward to expose to the public; increase of business and esteem were the effects, and these he enjoyed largely.

Aubrey, in his gossiping humour, states Dr.

Willis to be of the middle stature, with dark red hair, like a red pig, and that he stammered much in his speech. He was evidently of very religious habits; the fees, &c. received for his practice upon Sundays, and upon church holidays, were devoted to the poor; and, becoming conscious that the necessary avocations of servants prevented them from attending the service of the church, at the usual hours, he left a sum of money to the parish of St. Martin's in the Fields, in which he died, that divine service might also be performed at seven o'clock in the morning, so that these might be enabled to attend before the commencement of their usual employments.—s.

A FEMALE SHORT OF TONGUE!

A young Portuguese lady, instead of a tongue, had only a small eminence resembling a nipple. This eminence had a slight contractile and expansive motion; and yet this young lady contrived to speak distinctly, though she was forced to use her finger in pushing the chewed aliment back towards the pharynx to be swallowed!

MR. WILLIAM CURTIS.

This apothecary has so greatly contributed to promote the study of botany in this country, that he merits some notice to be taken of his

life before the lapse of years shall have entirely erased him from our minds.

Mr. Curtis was the eldest son of Mr. John Curtis, of Alton, Hampshire, who carried on the business of a tanner. He was born in the year 1746; and, in the eighth year of his age, he was placed under the care of Mr. Vinder, who, at that time, kept a very respectable school about a mile from that town. Mr. Curtis remained at this seminary, under Mr. Vinder, and his successor Mr. Docker, till his fourteenth year, when, to his great regret, (for he now began to relish, and to know the value of classical acquisitions) he was taken away and bound apprentice to his grandfather, an apothecary at Alston.

It was during his apprenticeship that Mr. Curtis was led to his first studies in botany. The house contiguous to that in which Mr. Curtis lived, was the Crown Inn; and the hostler, a John Lagg, a sober steady man, was a person of uncommonly strong sense, and though an unlettered man, yet, with the assistance of Gerard's and Parkinson's unwieldy volumes, had gained so complete a knowledge of plants, that not one could be brought to him which he could not name without hesitation.

This struck the inquisitive Curtis forcibly, and brought into action those powers which

have made him so famous. In a very short time his indefatigable zeal had made him practically acquainted with most of the wild plants of his neighbourhood, especially those which related to medicine.

On coming to London, Mr. Curtis attended the lectures of Dr. George Fordyce, senior physician to St. Thomas's hospital. Dr. Fordyce, convinced of the necessity of botanical knowledge to medical students, was in the practice of accompanying his pupils into the fields and meadows near town, for the purpose of instructing them in the principles of the science of botany.

On these occasions Mr. Curtis frequently had the honour of assisting the doctor in demonstrating the plants. Not unfrequently the task of demonstration was confided wholly to Mr. Curtis. Not long after this association, Mr. Curtis himself gave public lectures on botany, and took with him his pupils into the fields and woods in the neighbourhood of London.

Nothing could be more pleasant than these excursions; at dinner-time the plants collected in the walk were produced and demonstrated; but the demonstration was enlivened with all that fund of natural humour which was a prevailing trait in Mr. Curtis's disposition.

Mr. Curtis now became known to gentlemen

of the first abilities in the knowledge of natural history; among the rest to Mr. Alchorne of the Mint. This gentleman had officiated, *pro tempore*, as demonstrator of botany to the society of apothecaries, on the resignation of Mr. Hudson; and, conceiving that it would be both honourable and advantageous to Mr. Curtis to be placed in that situation, he recommended him in the handsomest terms to the society, and he was accordingly chosen to that office. He continued in this situation several years; but, at length, finding it interfere too much with his professional duties, resigned it.

In conjunction with Mr. Thomas White, bookseller, in Fleet-street, Mr. Curtis occupied a very small garden, for the culture of British plants, near the Grange-road, Bermondsey. It was here that he first conceived the design of publishing his great work, the "Flora Londinensis." This garden was soon found too small for Mr. Curtis's extensive ideas; he, therefore, took a larger piece of ground in Lambeth Marsh, where he cultivated the largest collection of British plants ever brought together into one place. But there was something ungenial in the air of this place, which made it extremely difficult to preserve sea-plants, and many of the rare annuals, which are adapted to an elevated situation; and this difficulty was render-

ed greater every year by the increasing number of buildings around.

His active mind, which was ever anxious for improvement, of course sought for a more favourable soil; and this he at length found at Brompton. Here he procured a spacious territory, in which he had the pleasure of seeing his wishes gratified to the utmost extent; and here he continued until his death.

About the year 1787, he projected the plan of his "Botanical Magazine." What the sterling merit of his *Flora* could not accomplish, this, comparatively speaking, inferior performance procured. The nature of this publication had in it such a captivation, was so easily purchased, and executed with so much taste and accuracy, that, at once, it became popular; and from its unvaried continuance in excellence and popularity, continued to be a mine of wealth to him, and its profits are said to have amounted to 600*l.* a-year, which he enjoyed to his death, contributing, at the same time, not a little to the increase of his botanical fame, from the number of original and excellent observations interspersed through the work.

In ornithology Mr. Curtis was no mean adept. Although his musical powers were not beyond the common level; yet, in one respect, he shewed an exact ear. No bird could utter a note,

whether its usual one, or that of love, or that of fear and surprise, but he could, from the sound, determine from what species it proceeded. He often regretted that he had not the power of imparting this knowledge. His skill, in this particular, has enlivened many a herborization, both in waste wilds and thick embarrassing woods.

Mr. Curtis had been, originally, one of the society of friends, but his lively convivial disposition was at variance with their moral habits, and he either relinquished them, or they relinquished him. His conviviality, indeed, led him too frequently to indulge in excessive potation.

S.

A PHYSICIAN CARTED.

“To what base purposes we must come, Horatio!”

Hamlet.

“In the year 1563, Dr. Langton, a physician, rid in a car, with a gown of damask, lined with velvet, and a coat of velvet, and a cap of the same, (such, it seems, doctors then wore) but having a blue hood pinned over his cap; which was (as it seems) a customary mark of guilt. And so came through Cheapside on a market day. His crime was (*monstrum horrendum!*) that he was taken in bed with two young wenches at once!” O fie, Dr. Langton!—*Strype's edit. of Stowe's Surv. of London.*

DR. MONSEY AND DEAN SWIFT.

It has been said that Dean Swift was Dr. Monsey's model; and, as far as ruling the company, and guiding the conversation of those with whom he associated, there certainly was a strong resemblance. In this department they were both rather tyrannical; for he who seldom meets with his equal, either in parts or in power, is too apt to expect deference and submission from all.

One of Dr. Monsey's axioms brings to our mind a similar but unfortunate taste in Swift,

Medico et philosopho nihil indecens.

The author of the 'Ladies' Dressing-room,' and a man* who produced (as Dr. Monsey did) an almond, which he boasted had travelled four times down his throat, could neither of them be very nice, though, according to a doctrine of the Dean, they both abounded in nasty ideas.

DISEASE AND THE DOCTOR.

Two friends having been taken ill much about the same time, one of them recovered his health a considerable time before the other, upon which some surprise being expressed, the first convalescent observed, "He had nothing but his disorder to contend with, but that his friend had that and the doctor into the bargain."

* The Adventures of an Almond.

LABRADOR MEDICINE.

When Captain Cartwright lay sick in his tent, as he relates in his 'Journal of Sixteen Years' Residence on the Coast of Labrador,' at a distance from his own people, and surrounded only by the Esquimaux, solemn ceremonies, he states, were instituted during the night, by these Indians, for his recovery. Part of them consisted of such hideous yells as were never uttered by human beings, and which completely prevented sleep.

The following mode of curing the head-ache he saw practised by his friend Attuiock, one of the priests of the tribe. The patient was the practitioner's own wife, and when Cartwright entered the room, he found her laid on the floor, with her hands by her sides; Attuiock sat so far back as to have her head opposite to his knees. He had placed a long strap under her head, which came over the forehead. In this strap he put the end of a strong stick, which he held in his hand across his knees. With great gravity, and in a low doleful cadence, he sung a song, frequently laying a strong emphasis on some particular word, which, says the narrator, I did not understand; at the same time, by the help of a lever, he raised her head as high as the length of her neck would permit, and then

let it bump down again upon the floor, keeping time to the tune. As I supposed it was a religious rite, he being a priest, I silently observed what was going forward. At length the old gentleman, fixing his eyes on me, pointed to his wife with an important look, and said, "It is very good."—"That may be," said I, "but pray what is it good for?"—"My wife has got the head-ache," answered the priest.

A similar plan of treating, chiefly the same disease, as we learn from Crantz, is pursued among the kindred tribes of Greenland.—s.

BREATHING A VEIN.

The late Lord R——, with many good qualities, even with learning and parts, had a strange desire of being thought skilful in physic and surgery, and was very expert at bleeding. Lord Chesterfield, who knew his foible, and, on a particular occasion, wished to have his vote, came to him one morning, and, after having conversed upon different subjects, complained of the head-ache, and desired his lordship to feel his pulse. It was found to beat high, and a hint of losing blood given. I have no objection, and, as I hear your lordship has a masterly hand, will you favour me with trying your lancet upon me? 'A-propôz,' said Lord Chesterfield, after the operation, 'do you go

to the house to-day?" Lord R. answered, ' I did not intend to go, not being sufficiently informed of the question that is to be debated; but you, who have considered it, which side will you be of?' The Earl, having gained his confidence, easily directed his judgment; he carried him to the house, and got him to vote as he pleased. He used afterwards to say, that none of his friends had done as much as himself, having literally bled for the good of his country.—*Medical Anecdotes.*

DR. JOSEPH FRANCIS BORRI.

If the missionaries, who are sent by the western Christians, to change the religion of the Pagans of the eastern nations, were well versed in the science of chemistry, and if they did but dazzle the eyes of those ignorant people with a great many curious and useful experiments in this fundamental branch of physic, they would, perhaps, make as deep impressions upon their minds, and give them as convincing testimonies of the power and legality of their mission, as they can, at present, by the spiritual or indelible character they say is inherent in them.

Pope Clement X. knew well the effects which chemistry, artfully applied, might produce in the minds of ignorant people, when he secured the person of the famous Italian Dr. Borri, who,

about 1660, by his skill in chemistry, did work several extraordinary cures of diseases in Germany, and gained such universal reputation, all over the empire and the northern kingdoms, that, (as it is reported of him) he thought he had credit and opportunity sufficient to invent and propagate a new religion, by making his surprising experiments in chemistry pass for miracles; which they might easily have done, since chemistry being then in its minority, was not much known in the world. But the Pope foreseeing the ill-consequence such a design might produce, gave timely orders to his nuncio, then at Vienna, to desire the emperor to get him seized, which being accordingly done, he was sent prisoner to Rome, on condition, nevertheless, that his life should be safe.

Here he was imprisoned, in the Castle of St. Angelo, for several years, and a laboratory allowed him for his diversion. Nobody was admitted to discourse with him without special leave. He died in this prison.

It is curious, that the apartments and laboratory occupied by Dr. Borri, in the Castle of St. Angelo, should, in the course of a century, be again used for the confinement and amusement of another enthusiastic chemist, the famous Count Cagliostro.—s.

A CHILD PUBLICLY DISSECTED BY ITS
FATHER.

The Honorable Robert Boyle has somewhere remarked, that in proportion to the repugnance at first felt for a thing, is afterwards the fondness for it when once that repugnance is conquered. Such is often the case with anatomy; to be daily and hourly conversant with dead and putrid carcasses is, one would think, a shocking employment, and yet many, who at first shrunk from the sight, afterwards doat upon it.

Rondeletius, who wrote an excellent treatise on fishes, was a celebrated teacher of anatomy and physic at Montpellier, having, by means of great exertions, obtained an anatomical theatre to be built there. In this theatre he is said to have publicly dissected the dead body of one of his own children; in consequence of which he occurred much obloquy, for allowing his feelings, as a parent, to be overcome by his ardour for anatomical enquiries.—s.

TRIAL OF DR. CASTAING, FOR POISONING
WITH ACETATE OF MORPHINE.

If the following article, and others similar to it, be not selected from a scarce and curious source, it is equally curious and scarce in the modern annals of political medicine.

There has been a very important trial in

Paris—the culprit, a physician, accused of murder, by poisoning in a singular manner, and also of forging a will of the persons destroyed by his alleged criminality. Many parts of the evidence are highly interesting, though rendered, according to our manner of thinking, unnecessarily disgusting, and, in no small degree, ridiculous, by the usage, in the French criminal courts, of interrogating the accused. However, the peculiarity of this case, as far as medical interests are involved in it, seems to have been the choice, or the alleged choice, of the poison.

In this examination, he admitted that he had made poisons the subject of study and experiment; that he was acquainted with certain vegetable poisons which left no traces of their action; and that he had purchased acetate of morphine to make experiments on animals. In the course of the trial, he admitted that one of the deceased persons, of poisoning whom he stood accused, had drank some hot wine at an inn where they both were; that a servant, who tasted it, found it sour; and that, to his own knowledge, acetate of morphine would communicate a bitter taste; that the deceased had vomited, and that the matter rejected had been thrown away. He ascribed the person's death, however, to *cholera morbus*. He further stated, that he mixed the acetate with an emetic for the purpose of the experiments.

From the examination of the unfortunate prisoner, however, we must confess that we do not gather any clear notions of the precise lethal

act imputed to him—the questions seem to have reference to something already understood, but in no way explained.

Several medical witnesses were examined; and here it is proper for us to state, that we are in possession of no accounts concerning this interesting case, but such as have been published in the ordinary prints of the day.

Laennec is represented as having said that the first person poisoned might have died of a phthisical complaint, under which he had laboured; and that the symptoms might have been produced by poison, which, as a man, he was strongly inclined to believe had been the case! Dr. Michel believed his death to have been owing to phthisis, and *not* to poison: He stated that the ordinary effect of acetate of morphine was narcotic, but it varied according to the constitution of the person taking it. Dr. Petit, on reading the defective report (*proces verbal*) thought the various symptoms could not have been produced by phthisis alone, but might be the result of poison. The prisoner asked this witness whether peripneumony might not produce a paralysis of the brain? which was admitted, as also that it was not impossible that it should cause a cerebral congestion sufficient to obstruct respiration. Being also asked by Castaing, whether, in consumptive cases, congestions were not sometimes found in the brain, lungs, and duodenum? the fact was admitted, but not that they were caused by phthisis. The witness stated them to be the immediate and natural effects of death. Two apothecaries deposed that they both sold the prisoner acetate of morphine, and one of them twelve grains of sulphate of soda, which the prisoner said he had used as a laxative. There must

be some mistake here. Orfila was also examined; and the substance of his evidence is represented to be—that, from the *proces verbal*, it was impossible to conclude that the deceased had been poisoned. The appearances there described might have been produced by the acetate of morphine, but they might also have been caused by a natural malady. He stated, that the smallest atom of this substance might be discovered in the stomach, being the easiest vegetable poison to be recognised, unless there had been frequent vomiting. He considered it to be an error that vegetable poisons could not be traced, and expressed himself confident that, under such circumstances, he should be able to detect half a grain of this salt.

We have, in this notice, endeavoured to restrict ourselves most rigidly to the medical bearings of the case; but, in spite of our strongest resolutions, we cannot conceal some of our dissatisfactions. Here is an individual condemned and executed for an alleged crime, of a most extraordinary and (we will say, upon consideration of the means) improbable nature. He has suffered the sentence of decapitation for murder, of which, as British men, and men that jurymen are formed of, we say there was not evidence. In the first place, what is this acetate of morphine or morphia? we will venture to assert that, with the exception perhaps of Orfila, not one of the witnesses examined, with regard to its properties, had any practical knowledge of it whatever. Secondly, the whole of the medical evidence (as far as the public

journals have revealed it to us), even if delivered exactly as it was in France, would, in this country, have been favourable to the accused; for it is characterised by doubt. Thirdly, we will take upon us to depart a step from our present province, and enter on one that is, nevertheless, more allied to our proper duties than might at first appear; saying, that there are few men of delicate mind, ordinary sensibility, and honourable feeling, who could, day after day, and hour after hour, endure the torturing, if not malignant, inquisition to which persons in the situation of the unfortunate Castaing are subjected in the enlightened and philanthropic kingdom of France. Of what avail is the abolition of corporeal torture, when that of the mind is urged in the fullest force?

We refer our readers to the newspaper reports, in which we think the summing up of the *avocat général*, or, as we might here call it, the address of counsel for the prosecution, will fully bear us out in our preceding animadversions. It is very French, and what is very French is very theatrical. On the other hand, the address of the counsel for the prisoner, though well meant, is by no means such as we think an intelligent English barrister would have produced. The import of the evidence offered by scientific men, *decidedly* (as we

should think) in favour of the prisoner, is overlooked. The advocate, however, in alluding to the general tenour of the evidence against his client, is reduced to the humiliating necessity (humiliating for his court) to say, that it would not have been listened to in England, where hearsay evidence is totally inadmissible.

Of course, the evidence regarding the forgery of the will does not affect our view of the matter, and we have therefore left it out of our notice. Upon this, and upon *one* only, of the charges of poisoning, Castaing was found guilty by a majority of seven jurymen to five.

Med. Journal, 1824.

PHYSICIANS NOT ALWAYS PHILOSOPHERS.

Although the maxim, "follow my precepts and not my example," may certainly be more often proper in the mouths of priests than physicians; yet there are not wanting instances in which even physicians sin against their own better knowledge. The celebrated Rondeletius is well known to have died of a bowel complaint, occasioned by eating immoderately of green figs.

Another medical practitioner, although he was well aware that toasted cheese subjected him to an alarming pulmonary complaint, yet could not refrain from eating it; and, indeed,

may be said to have killed himself by wilfully persisting in the use of this species of food.

There is another English physician who cannot resist cramming himself with filberts, although obliged to confess, from his own experience, that they are to him extremely indigestible and hurtful.—s.

PHYSIOLOGY OF WOUNDS AND OTHER INJURIES.

Were proofs wanting, it might be difficult to mention any savage tribe so ignorant as not to know, for instance, the invariably lethal effects of wounding, or otherwise injuring the spinal marrow. Among the nations of Pagan antiquity, in sacrificing oxen, it was the custom, time immemorial, if we believe Oribasius, to destroy the animal by cutting asunder this important part of his body.

It is a prevailing opinion among the Otaheitians, that the seat of the soul and of vitality must, without doubt, be alike referred to the stomach and intestines, and, in favour of this doctrine, arguments are urged by them not devoid of ingenuity. Thus, when Vancouver endeavoured to convince them of the paramount importance of the brain, they only smiled, observing, at the same time, that they had often seen men survive injuries, even the most

severe, inflicted on the head, but that they never perceived them to recover from serious wounds, or other lesions of the intestinal tube. As a further proof was adduced by them, the superior degree of sensibility possessed by the abdominal viscera, demonstrated by the sickness, vomiting, and other disorders incident to those parts from mental causes, as fear and other violent passions. It is not unamusing, says Dr. Richard Millar, in his very excellent disquisitions in the History of Medicine, to meet with this approach to the tenets of Van Helmont in the distant isles of the sea.

DR. INGRAM, OF BARNET.

We cannot refuse our tribute of respect to those who, in spite of the most adverse circumstances, persevere in their efforts to attain knowledge in the department to which their genius leads them, although it be not that in which their parents had educated them.

He was a man of extraordinary parts, of low origin, but of great application, and therefore the raiser of his own fortune, which became very considerable. He was at first an apprentice to some trade, thought to be a shoe-maker. He afterwards learned the business of a barber, and exercised it, and became eminent for drawing teeth; and Mr. H——, his pupil, thinks

he would have excelled in any other profession. He could hardly read at first, but learned, and by borrowing here and there a few physic books from his neighbours, he became a small practitioner, then extended his views to bone-setting, and at last became one of the most eminent surgeons in the kingdom, being noted far and near for his uncommon skill and success, and had great practice both at Barnet and London.

He educated his son James at Oxford, who commenced M.D. and lived at Barnet, where he died about 1754; but his fame and abilities were never equal to those of his father, who died at a great age, about 1757.—s.

PROPHETIC DREAM.

In February, 1786, professor Meier, of Halle, was sent for by one of his pupils, a medical student who lay dangerously ill. The patient told his doctor, that he should certainly die, having had a warning dream to that effect. I wrote it down, he added, the morning after it happened, and laid it in a drawer, of which this is the key: when I am gone, read it over.

On the 4th of March the student died. Professor Meier opened the drawer of the writing-desk, in which he found this narration:—

“ I thought I was walking in the church-yard of Halle, and admiring the great number of

excellent epitaphs, which are cut on the grave-stones there. Passing from one to another, I was struck by a plain tomb-stone, of which I went to read the inscription. With surprise I found upon it my own two forenames, and my surname, and that I died on the 4th of March. With progressive anxiety I tried to read the date of the year; but I thought there was moss over the fourth cypher of 178—. I picked up a stone to scrape the figures clean, and just as I began to distinguish a 6, with fearful palpitation I awoke."

Professor Meier related this anecdote in his lectures, as a proof of the influence of the mind in disease; this dream having caused its own fulfilment.

EMBALMING.

The Egyptians are not the only people who practised embalming; traces of a similar art are discoverable amongst various rude communities which the navigators of modern times have brought to light.

Thus the Gaunches, an aboriginal tribe of Teneriffe, we are informed by Bishop Sprat, in his History of the Royal Society, were found so dexterous in this practice, as even to preserve the flexibility of the skin, together with the natural appearance of its vessels.

Charlevoix in his travels relates, that the indigenæ of Nova Scotia were observed, by the French missionaries, to dry and disembowel their dead.

In Otaheite, so Vancouver observes, a process is known which completely prevents putrefaction for more than six months, notwithstanding the heat of the climate.

This process, as we learn from the missionaries, in their voyage to the South Pacific Ocean, consists in extracting the brain and viscera, then carefully washing and drying the cavities, and afterwards anointing daily both inside and outside with cocoa-nut oil, so that the whole fabric exhibits the appearance of a skeleton covered over with oil-cloth. It is then ready for being deposited on the stages or *tupapows*, where they preserve their dead.

Vancouver likewise discovered in New Albion a number of very complete skeletons, partly of adults deposited in canoes, partly of children placed in baskets, both suspended from trees at the height of twelve feet from the ground.

Numerous other instances of embalming might be readily collected from the records of rude communities, so as to shew that this road to anatomical knowledge had been very early

laid open to mankind: as the natives of Oonalaska and Kadiak, two islands in the Archipelago betwixt Asia and America, who preserve their dead with dry moss and grass.—s.

A LIVER WANTING.

“An adult, who died of dropsy, was opened. The liver and spleen were entirely wanting. The vena portæ opened immediately into the inferior cava. We have nothing analogous to this case, says Fournier, upon record, but the authority of Lieutaud prevents us from rejecting it as suspicious.”—Granting that this was the case, it does not detract from the importance of the hepatic functions in the animal economy, any more than the case of the Roman soldier proves the heart to be an unnecessary organ in the human frame.

SIR WILLIAM PETTY.

Although this gentleman, in the latter part of his life, became a political character, yet it appears, from that entertaining miscellany published from Aubrey's manuscripts in the Bodleian library, that, in the earlier part of his life, he studied medicine, and was the first who read lectures at Oxford in practical anatomy.

Aubrey, who had a considerable penchant to astrology, tells, with minute exactness, that

Petty was born the 26th of May, in the year 1623, at 56 seconds, 42 minutes past eleven o'clock at night. This extreme nicety to seconds of a minute shews that he had calculated Petty's nativity, and to use the technical term, rectified it by the considerations arising from the accidents which had already happened to that gentleman.

According to the gossiping information of Aubrey, Sir William was originally a sea-apprentice, but had a smattering of Latin and Greek. In the study of these he persevered, as well as circumstances permitted him, and became acquainted with the medicinal works of the old practitioners memorable in Greece and Rome. He made several voyages to France, and perfected himself in the French language. He quitted the sea-service, and turned merchant. At Paris he gave loose to the early inclinations he had engendered from his reading, and applied himself to the study of anatomy; and had for his associate the celebrated English philosopher Hobbes; they read Vesalius together.

After some time he returned to England, and entered at Oxford. By persevering application he obtained repute, and his anatomical knowledge was considered as very great. He procured a dead subject to be brought from Reading to

Oxford, and demonstrated it with great judgment and ability; this was the first human subject that was publicly dissected there.—s.

THE LITTLE DWARF.

Marc Catozze, commonly called the little dwarf, was born at Venice, of robust parents, and had several brothers, strong and well formed. He died a few years ago at Paris, aged sixty-two years. The trunk of the body exhibited nothing remarkable, and appeared to belong to a person of about five feet six inches in height; there was, however, no scrotum. The upper extremities consisted of merely two prominent shoulders, to which were attached two hands, without either arms or fore-arms. The lower extremities consisted of a flattened plane, (*une fesse applatie*) to which were appended two ill-formed feet, without thighs or legs. As Catozze could not feed himself, or bring his hands to his mouth, Nature had furnished him with a curious under-jaw, which he used as an elephant uses his proboscis; at least, with this he managed his victuals very well. Catozze was very fond of women, wine, and good cheer. He was also fond of society, and spoke and wrote several languages. On dissection, several peculiarities were observed in the interior of the trunk, but they need not be recorded here.

PARISIAN FACULTY.

In Riolan "*Recherches Curieuses sur les Ecoles de la Medicine*," written against Courtant's book in favour of Montpellier, is an account of the faculty of medicine at Paris, which consisted then of six score physicians, who were alone legal practitioners. Six of these were biennially appointed to give lectures for two years on the different parts of medicine.

These lectures were gratuitous to all comers; but the other physicians were not hindered from lecturing if they chose.

The requisites for becoming a member of the faculty, were six years study in Paris itself; namely, two attending the lectures, two reading theses themselves, and occasional disputations; the last two visiting patients as assistants to another practitioner. This course was required, although the party had previously studied ever so long elsewhere.

The fees were high, and, when paid, the graduate had all the same privileges as the other regents.

If the parties were poor, they need not pay any fees; but, in this case, they became mere licentiates, and had no share in the affairs of the faculty.

The faculty deputed two members, in rota-

tion, to give advice on Wednesday and Saturday mornings, at their Hall, to all comers; and they contracted with an apothecary to dispense these prescriptions at their own expence, which cost them 12,000 livres, or 500*l.* sterling.

The king's first physician, from which office members of the faculty of medicine at Paris were studiously excluded, might admit as many physicians to the king and the members of the royal family as he pleased, provided they were graduated doctors in some university, which was usually Montpellier, where they were admitted doctors in six months. These physicians to the king and royal family might practise in Paris, or wherever any of the royal palaces were situated. Riverius, Mayerne (or Turquet), Quercetanus (or Violet), were of this class, and introduced chemical physic. Macquer, and the other professors of the royal garden, so well known as chemists, were physicians *au roy*, and not members of the medical faculty.

The surgeons of the long-robe in Paris, (pure surgeons) were offended at the anatomical lectures of the faculty of medicine being public, as affording means for the barber-surgeons and apothecaries acquiring a knowledge of it. Their own lectures are confined to their apprentices.

The faculty of medicine accused the king's physicians as exhibiting emetic tartar, and a

number of nostrums or secret medicines, in all cases, ever so simple. They, in their turn, accuse the regular faculty of using no other remedies but bleeding, senna, bran, and stick-liquorice; and of writing their prescriptions for the poor in the vulgar tongue, to the great injury of other practitioners.

DR. WILLIAM HARVEY.

This celebrated physician, whose supposed preparations of the arteries, veins, &c. of a human subject, were lately presented to the Royal College of Physicians of London, by the Earl of Winchelsea, was born at Folkstone, in the year 1578.—After finishing his classical education at the University of Cambridge, he studied the different branches of medicine, chiefly under the eminent Italian physician Jerome Fabricius, at Padua, where he obtained the degree of M. D. On his return to England, he was incorporated Doctor of Physic in Cambridge; soon after which he took his rank in London, of a Fellow of the Royal College, to which his residence in the English University entitled him.

Being well acquainted with anatomy and surgery, he was elected by the members of the College, lecturer on these important branches of medicine. His mind having been much

directed to the anatomy of the heart, and especially to the circulation of the blood, by his teacher Fabricius, and convinced of the immense importance of a more correct knowledge of the offices of the heart and its appendages, the arteries and veins, he particularly directed his investigations to these subjects.

The exact time when Harvey completed the discovery of the circulation of the blood is not known. Some writers suppose that he first promulgated it in the Lumley lecture in 1615. Like all new discoveries and doctrines, it excited among the members of the profession considerable clamour. Harvey, although their benefactor, was assailed with torrents of abuse.

The reputation, however, that Dr. Harvey acquired, induced James the First to appoint him his physician in ordinary—and, although he was deemed by some a courtier, his greatest enemy never accused him of being a toad-eater.—It is said that when James the First requested his opinion of a dropsical affection of his legs, he frankly observed, “I assure your majesty I would not have your *two* legs for your *three* kingdoms.” Dr. Harvey was chosen, during his absence, president of the Royal College of Physicians, an honour he declined, in consequence of his advanced age. The Doctor having no children, added to the college edifice,

when it was in Amen-Corner, a combination-room, a library, and a museum; and, in 1656, at the first feast which he instituted, to be continued annually, he presented them with the title-deeds of all his estates.—He also made a provision for an annual oration, in honour of the benefactors to the college, and for the keeper of the library and museum.—The oration is regularly delivered on the 18th of October, in the Latin language.

It is somewhat remarkable that Dr. Harvey, after presenting the College of Physicians with his estates, library, and other valuable personals, should not also have given them the preparations of arteries, veins, &c., which were lately presented to them by the Earl of Winchelsea. The doctor had either forgotten them, or considered them of no value. The fact of their remaining so long concealed from the light, has induced some ill-natured anatomists to suppose that, like the bone which was presented to his majesty by Captain Fitzclarence, as the thigh-bone of a King of Egypt, and which Sir Everard Home conveyed, with every mark of respect, to the College of Surgeons, they may turn out to be an exhibition of the veins, arteries, &c., of an ass, calf, or some other brute, by a farrier; an idea, which the clumsy manner in which they are displayed and

glued on the boards certainly favours; for the *royal* thigh-bone, which Captain Fitzclarence obtained from an Egyptian sarcophagus, proved to be the thigh-bone of a cow!

Dr. Harvey died in the year 1657. This liberal, and truly great physician, had the gratification to survive the clamours of ignorance, envy, and prejudice, which had been raised against his doctrine of the circulation; a doctrine which length of time has most satisfactorily confirmed, for every surgeon knows it from experience. In medicine it is of such great importance that it enables a practitioner to form some opinion either of the seat, nature, or probable issue of every malady.

The Doctor was not only an excellent physician, but an excellent man. His modesty, candour, and piety, (rare combination in physicians of the present day) were equal to his knowledge; the farther he penetrated into the wonders of nature, the more he venerated their Author.

DEATH OF DR. MONSEY.

Dr. Monsey was a man of strong passions, pointed wit, and a lively imagination. His wit was ardent, insatiable, and often troublesome; but then his communication was rapid, copious, and interesting; he possessed a vein of humour,

rich, luxuriant, and, like the nature of all humour, sometimes gross, and sometimes inelegant. His wit was not the keen, shining, well-tempered weapon of a Sheridan, a Courtenay, or a Burke; it partook rather of the nature of the irresistible massy sabre of a Cossack, which, at the time that it cut down by the sharpness of its edge, demolished by the weight of the blow. To these qualities were added, deep penetration and an incredible memory, which poured, in an inexhaustible flow of words, the treasures of past years; which, at times, like other treasures, was not without its dross. He was a storehouse of anecdote, a reservoir of good things, and a chronicle of past times. His faults he either would not or could not conceal, they were prominent to all:—a vitiated taste, a neglected dress, unseemly deportment, and disgusting language, form the marked characteristics of this very singular man: who, even on his death-bed, maintained all the force of his singularity, by bequeathing his body for dissection, an old velvet coat to one friend, and the buttons of it to another. In his will, he also inveighs bitterly against bishops, deans, and chapters; and leaves annuities to two clergymen who had resigned their preferment on account of the Athanasian doctrine.

Dr. Monsey died, at his apartments in Chelsea College, December 26, 1788, at the great age of 95.

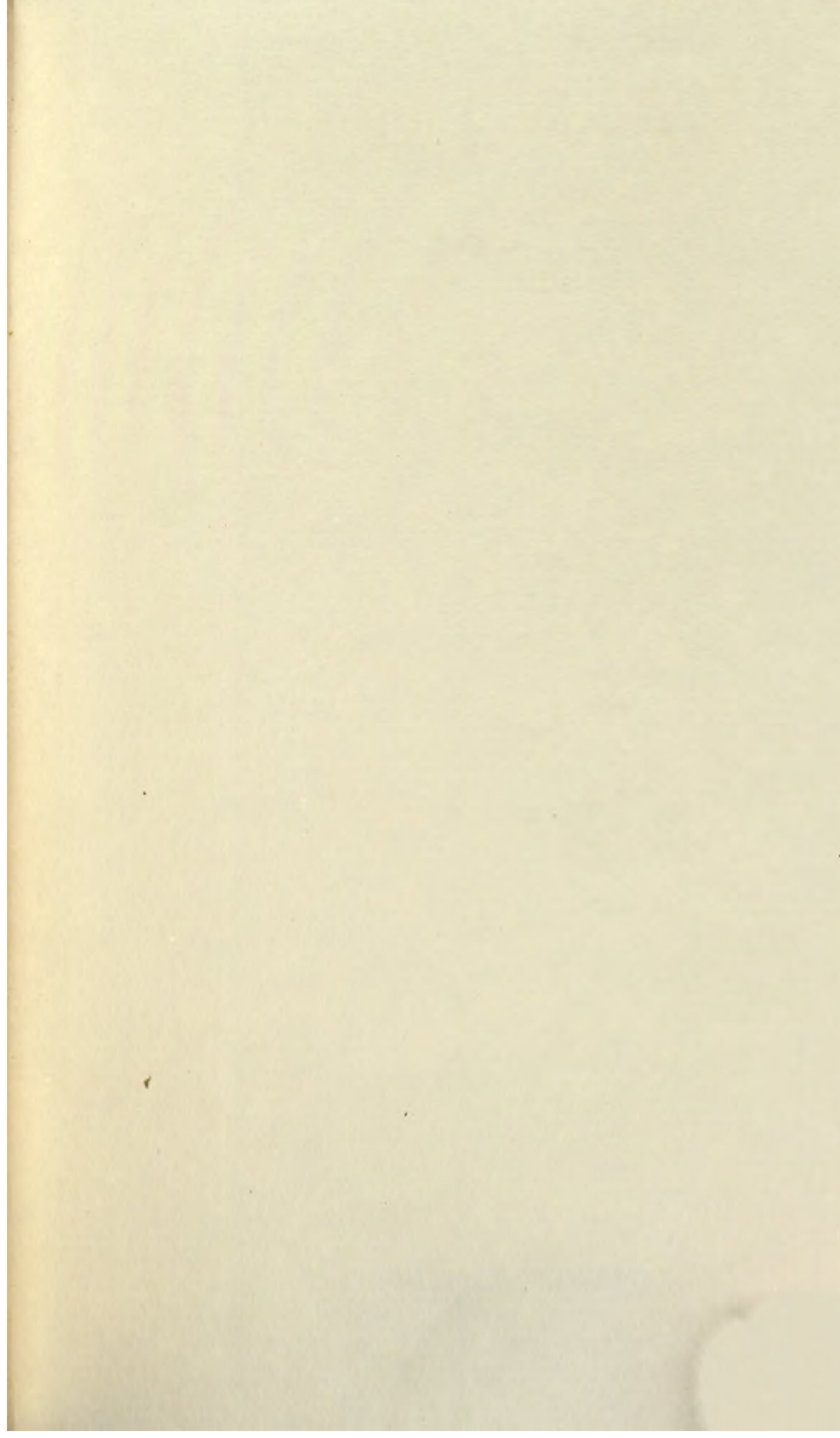
DR. FOTHERGILL AND THE APOTHECARY.

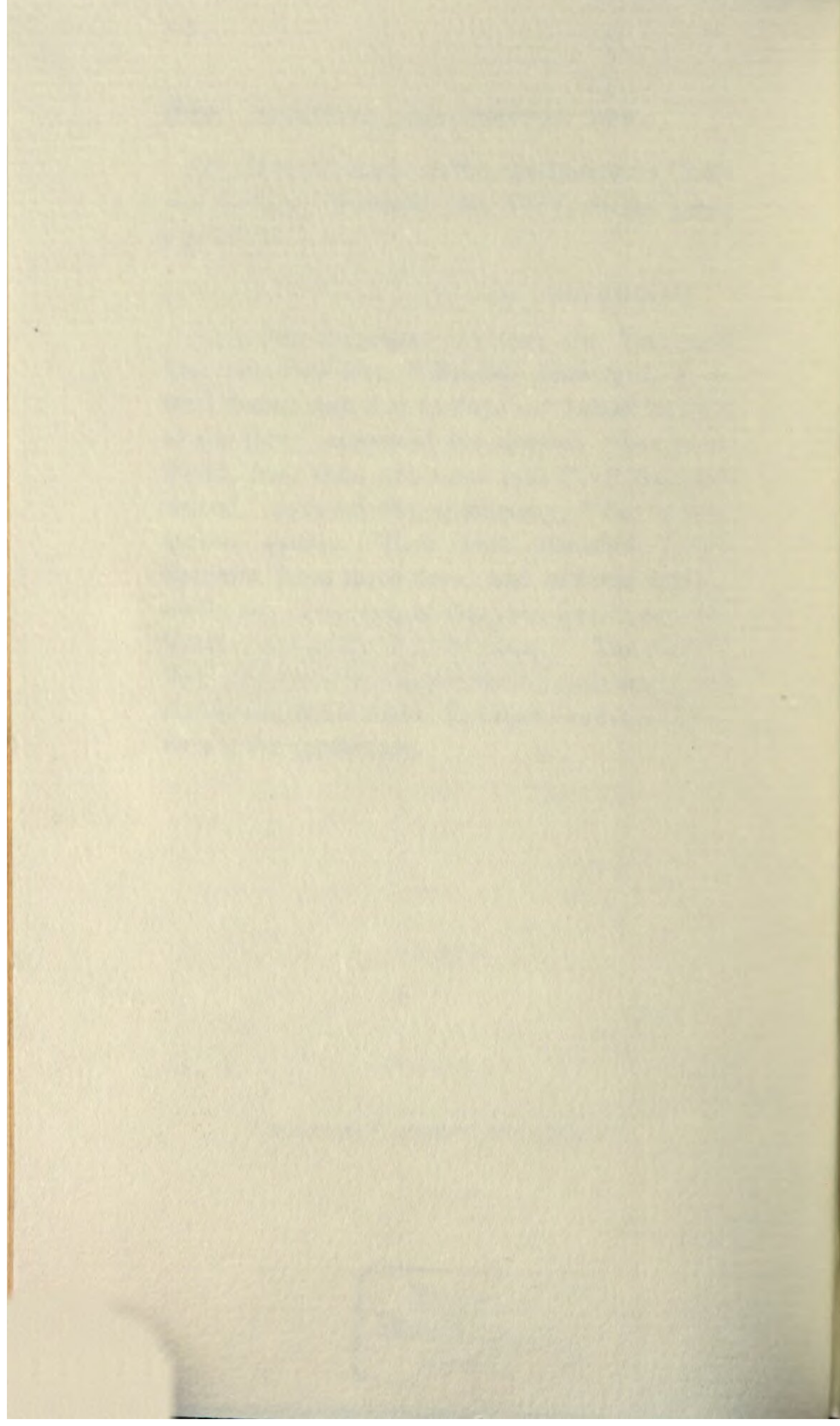
A quaker-apothecary meeting Dr. Fothergill thus accosted him, "Friend, Fothergill, I intend dining with thee to-day."—"I shall be glad to see thee," answered the doctor; "but pray, friend, hast thou not some joke?"—"No joke, indeed," rejoined the apothecary, "but a very serious matter. Thou hast attended friend Ephraim these three days, and ordered him no medicine. I cannot, at this rate, live in my own house, and must live in thine." The doctor took the hint, and prescribed handsomely for the benefit of his friend Ephraim, and his friend Leech, the apothecary.

FINIS.

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